

Seal of Good Local Governance in the Municipality of Caramoan

Precy P. Co

Graduate School, Naga College Foundation Inc.
Naga City 4400, Philippines

Abstract

The Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) is a national recognition program in the Philippines designed to promote and acknowledge good governance among local government units (LGU). The municipality of Caramoan in the Province of Camarines Sur is a second-class municipality status with a population of 12,733 households spread across 49 barangays and a vast area of 276.00 square kilometers. LGU-Caramoan had faced challenges in effectively delivering services due to its geographical and political aspects including managing resources and addressing the pressing needs of its community. Moreover, this study determined the level of performance of the LGU-Caramoan in the SGLG and used this as a basis for developing a strategic action plan. Descriptive-correlational methods were utilized in the study involving forty-seven regular employees of LGU-Caramoan from various departments and offices involved in the SGLG assessment. The study revealed that the overall SGLG performance level of LGU-Caramoan is in passed with consideration and there exists a weak to moderately strong degree of significant agreement supporting the aim of the study. Moreover, the strategic action plan was developed and aimed to enhance governance and community well-being in the LGU-Caramoan by addressing the improvement of fund utilization, compliance, support for marginalized groups, and better access to health and sanitation services through accountable and community-engaged practices.

Keywords: Seal of Good Local Governance, Local Government Unit, Caramoan, Strategic Action Plan

Introduction

The Local Government Unit (LGU) is the level of government that is closest and most relatable to citizens, as it directly provides essential services such as food assistance, healthcare, education, and infrastructure development that improve overall quality of life. This paper demonstrates that effective support from LGUs alleviates the difficulties faced by vulnerable populations and strengthens the relationship between the government and its citizens. In order to foster sustainable enhancements in the integrity of local governance, a new framework has been established and is overseen by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). This framework includes the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG), which outlines a series of standards that LGUs must fulfill to achieve recognition as exemplary. The SGLG evolved from the Seal of Good Housekeeping that was launched in 2010, focusing on enhancing integrity and performance. Additionally, the SGLG encourages transparency and

accountability, serving as a tool for LGUs to confront potential challenges and formulate strategic goals to tackle them.

The SGLG is an essential instrument for promoting transparency, accountability, and effective governance among LGUs in the Philippines. Created under Republic Act 11292, the SGLG aims to improve LGU performance through specific standards that encourage integrity and efficient service provision. This initiative, initiated by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), seeks to bolster local governance while highlighting the vital role of local leaders in enhancing community welfare. With a focus on sustainable development, the SGLG offers a framework that empowers LGUs to innovate and tackle local issues more effectively. The recognition granted through the SGLG acts as both a performance standard and a motivational driver for competition among local governments, thereby increasing the significance of local governance for residents.

Moreover, the SGLG has adapted to meet the evolving needs of local governance, reflecting the diverse requirements and aspirations of the communities it supports. The influence of the SGLG is substantial, motivating LGUs to prioritize transparency, community engagement, and effective resource management (Parrocha, 2019). The DILG's commitment to promoting the SGLG shows an awareness of the challenges faced by LGUs and underscores the need for institutional support to address these issues. The annual SGLG awards ceremony not only celebrates the successes of local governments but also encourages others to strive for excellence in public service. Ongoing recognition of LGUs through the SGLG illustrates the beneficial outcomes that result from implementing such frameworks, leading to enhanced governance and increased community trust in local institutions (Caliwan, 2023).

The study of the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) presents substantial implications for understanding and enhancing the performance of local government units. Focused on promoting transparency, accountability, and participatory governance, the SGLG framework encourages local officials to implement best practices that elevate service delivery and foster community engagement. The relevance of this initiative has gained traction in recent literature, emphasizing the need for comprehensive evaluation of its impact on local administrative processes (Guce & Sanders, 2024). Investigating SGLG implementation within various municipalities reveals a spectrum of challenges and successes, necessitating a deeper examination of the factors that contribute to effective governance practices (Hermocilla, 2022). Understanding these dynamics will equip policymakers and officials with insights that can be leveraged to enhance local governance systems and improve public trust.

Furthermore, investigating the SGLG provides an opportunity to assess its role in shaping educational leadership and community participation within local governments. The connection between educational initiatives and good governance showcases the importance of building leaders who are capable of driving local development (Orpiano & Dacal, 2020). This correlation not only highlights the importance of capacity-building among local officials but also underscores the necessity of engaging citizens in governance processes. The interplay of these elements reveals that accountability measures and community involvement are pivotal in reinforcing the effectiveness of local governance initiatives. Therefore, a focused study on the SGLG will yield valuable insights into improving governance

strategies at the local level and ensure that the benefits of such frameworks reach the communities they are intended to serve.

Seal of Good Local Governance

Since 2011, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has been promoting good governance and transparency in local government units (LGUs), beginning with the introduction of the Seal of Good Housekeeping (SGH) by former DILG Secretary Robredo (DILG-RV, 2016). The SGH was designed to evaluate and recognize LGUs for their effective management of internal affairs, particularly concerning local legislation, development planning, resource generation, and resource allocation. In 2012, 1,327 out of 1,713 local government units (which included 71 provinces, 111 cities, and 1,145 municipalities) were awarded the Seal of Good Housekeeping. In 2014, former DILG Secretary Roxas II launched the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) as an enhanced version of the SGH. While the SGH mainly concentrated on the complete disclosure of the financial aspects of LGUs, the SGLG introduced new mechanisms for LGUs to deliver services and respond effectively to the diverse needs of their constituents.

In 2019, President Duterte reinforced this initiative by signing "The Seal of Good Local Governance Act of 2019," also referred to as Republic Act 11292, which established the Council of Good Local Governance (CGLG), a body responsible for policy-making and advisory functions that includes various government agencies (Parrocha, 2019). The council is responsible for defining performance indicators to assess LGU adherence and satisfaction, taking into account the unique circumstances and limitations that may differ among LGUs. Under the guidance of the DILG Secretary, the CGLG collaborates with relevant agencies, civil society organizations, and community sectors to execute the provisions of the act. As noted by Parrocha (2019) that the SGLG Fund was created to offer incentives to eligible LGUs, with funds designated exclusively for this purpose.

As Caliwan (2023) indicated that across the country, 493 local government units (LGUs) have fulfilled the requirements for the 2023 Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) by complying with the benchmarks of effective leadership and outstanding public service established by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). He pointed out that to earn the SGLG recognition, a LGU must fulfill the requirements across several governance areas. The LGUs that receive the award will be presented with an SGLG marker and an SGLG Incentive Fund of 4 million pesos for provinces, 2.3 million pesos for cities, and 1.8 million pesos for municipalities. The national awarding ceremonies for the 2023 SGLG took place at The Manila Hotel in December 2023.

The SGLG and the Performance Challenge Fund (PCF) initiatives affect the effectiveness of LGUs in the Philippines and both initiatives notably improve good governance by promoting better financial management and service delivery (Sicat, et al., 2022). However, while the SGLG significantly influences financial performance, the PCF is more successful in enhancing service provision. In the same vein, Duque (2023) found that local views on these initiatives indicated that while the PCF was seen favorably in tackling governance issues, the perceived effectiveness of the SGLG seemed to be restricted. Moreover, it was emphasized that there is a need to revise the criteria in the SGLG evaluation to ensure equity among municipalities and to enhance support for those encountering governance difficulties..

Furthermore, the results underscore the importance of preserving equilibrium to prevent larger cities from gaining an undue edge in the assessment process. Consequently, Guce and Sanders Jr. (2024) explored how policy design significantly impacts the performance of local governments in relation to the SGLG program, stressing the necessity for a deeper understanding of intricate policies and their contradictory elements that complicate effective implementation and ultimately hinder the efficiency of local government. In a related analysis, Hermocilla (2022) studied Cardona Municipality's experiences with the SGLG program, discovering that active participation enhanced governance, transparency, and increased citizen engagement in local decision-making. This involvement not only improved the delivery of services but also raised the overall living standards for residents, leading to the conclusion that the SGLG program is an essential resource for promoting good governance and underscoring the need for its continued support.

Conversely, a research study was performed to explore the connection between educational leadership and the SGLG in the Municipality of Rosales (Orpiano & Dacal, 2020). The results indicated that educational leadership is vital for achieving SGLG, especially in enhancing the governance and service delivery of the municipality. Then again, it was demonstrated that effective educational leadership is defined by transparency, accountability, and inclusive decision-making which successively increases the municipality's capacity to offer quality education and public services. Additionally, the SGLG serves as an important tool for fostering good governance within local government units, and educational leadership can be a significant determinant in realizing SGLG (Orpiano & Dacal, 2020). Hence, Orpiano and Dacal (2020) stressed that the LGUs should emphasize the cultivation of educational leadership as an essential element of their governance plans, particularly concerning the application of SGLG. This is consistent and proves that there exists a significant correlation between educational leadership and SGLG area assessment which intends to improve the overall governance quality and service delivery in local communities.

The research conducted by Tayag and Cuyco (2017) reveals that despite the LGU having adequate financial management and efficient disaster risk reduction strategies, it faces challenges such as limited human resources, insufficient infrastructure, and inadequate budget allocations that impede its ability to meet the SGLG criteria. The findings suggests increasing financial resources, upgrading infrastructure, and enhancing staff skills as strategies to address these challenges. Similarly, Quileza (2022) highlights the importance of improving governance quality through better accountability and transparency measures, effective financial monitoring, and regular public engagement. There is a notable need for enhancement when assessing municipalities across various governance dimensions, especially in social protection and financial management. Moreover, promoting sustainable development and achieving improved governance results rely on bolstering the institutional capacities of LGUs.

Additionally, Cagas and Balacy (2022) study aimed at improving institutional capabilities, transparency, accountability, financial management, disaster risk reduction and management, in addition to community involvement and engagement. The researchers found that while the SGLG has significantly contributed to promoting good governance practices, it also encounters various challenges, including the need for enhanced transparency and accountability, superior financial management, and more effective disaster

risk reduction and management. In the same vein, the research underscored the influence of building institutional capacity, especially in areas like planning and budgeting, to ensure effective governance. Moreso, the researchers recommend that the SGLG should be supplemented by other initiatives that encourage community involvement and participation, thereby ensuring that good governance transcends being merely a policy or program and becomes a way of life.

On the other hand, Tabuso et al. (2024) introduce an innovative management framework known as the Seal of Good Local Governance for Barangay (SGLGB), which seeks to improve the governance of local government units in the Philippines. Their research shows that the SGLGB system has enhanced transparency, accountability, and operational effectiveness in local governance, particularly in chartered cities, impacting essential areas such as budgeting, financial management, and disaster risk reduction. The authors contend that the SGLGB system holds significant promise for promoting good governance and improving residents' quality of life in local communities, encouraging its wider implementation across local government units to achieve governance that is more effective and responsive. They recommend implementing the SGLGB Management System in the DILG office and barangays to simplify manual processes and motivate barangay secretaries to utilize the system's functionalities. In addition, they suggest enhancements for the future, such as the integration of multi-factor authentication to bolster security and the inclusion of a split-screen feature to enhance user experience.

The studies highlight the critical role of effective financial management in LGUs as a key component for achieving the SGLG award. As Vibora (2018) emphasizes the necessity of transparency, accountability, and citizen participation in fiscal administration to ensure efficient public fund usage. Findings from various studies show that LGUs often encounter issues like inadequate budgeting, poor financial planning, and limited funding sources, emphasizing the urgent need for reforms and the establishment of strong budgeting systems (Diaz & Pascual, 2021; Viray, 2021). Furthermore, Malitao Jr. (2020) emphasizes the positive link between strong fiscal administration and fiscal performance, indicating that prioritizing the Seal of Good Fiscal Administration (SGFA) may enhance financial management. Research indicates that improving financial planning, building capacity, and utilizing resources such as the Public Financial Management Assessment Tool (PFMAT) are essential for bolstering the financial capabilities of LGUs and ensuring better public service delivery (Piszczeck, 2016).

On the Disaster preparedness in the Philippines is critically dependent on the capacity of LGUs to respond effectively and call for improvements in communication and coordination between national and local authorities while advocating for clearer disaster response guidelines (Domingo & Manejar, 2018). In a similar vein, Merino et al. (2019) highlight the disparity between the desire to prepare for disasters and actual preparedness, attributing this issue to insufficient knowledge, limited resources, and inadequate institutional backing, while proposing that community-based initiatives are essential for closing this gap. Similarly, Bigueras et al. (2018) suggest implementing a data-driven architectural model that incorporates real-time data sources, allowing LGUs to enhance the accuracy and timeliness of their responses by improving risk and impact assessments and to strengthen disaster management frameworks. Moreso, Ravago et al. (2020) introduced the Localized Disaster Risk Management Index to assess municipal preparedness, indicating that merely 27% of municipalities are adequately prepared, with notable variations in readiness across regions. Consistently, Mendoza et al. (2016) emphasize the

critical importance of LGUs in disaster risk reduction and management, observing that those with greater capacities are typically more effective responders, influenced by financial resources and human capital. To sum up, fostering resilience among LGUs through capacity development, improved resource distribution, and active stakeholder involvement is vital for enhancing disaster preparedness in the nation.

The connection between social protection and sensitivity is crucial for effective local governance, especially within the context of the SGLG. Terziev and Arabska (2015) argue that successful social policies and programs are necessary to foster employment and address unemployment, highlighting the importance of targeted actions. The importance of transnational social protection systems is also highlighted by Levitt et al. (2017), who point out that traditional models usually ignore the unique situations of migrants and refugees who interact with different social protection systems. There appears to be a clear correlation between social protection and sensitivity, as Uy (2018) found that LGUs with higher levels of social protection and sensitivity tended to see better governance results. Delos Reyes (2015) further supports this notion by observing that LGUs that emphasize social protection initiatives attained improved SGLG ratings and enhanced their service delivery. Moreover, these studies indicate that boosting social protection and sensitivity is essential for LGUs that seek to elevate citizen satisfaction and achieve efficient governance.

An investigation into the compliance of LGUs with health standards in the Philippines reveals notable shortcomings, with only thirty percent achieving full compliance, highlighting an urgent need for improvements in health governance (Aguilar, et al., 2016). Research indicates that municipalities with better health infrastructure and staffing are more successful in addressing health challenges, underscoring the necessity of investment in these areas to enhance responsiveness (Laguilles, 2018). Additionally, the correlation between health governance practices and health outcomes shows that superior governance is associated with improved health results, which underscores its critical role in evaluating LGU performance (Macaraig, 2019). Challenges such as inadequate resources and staffing hinder the effective implementation of health policies, indicating that LGUs must bolster their capacities to successfully meet health standards (Dizon, 2017). Thus, emphasizing leadership commitment, community engagement, and resource allocation is essential for LGUs to improve health compliance and work towards achieving the SGLG award.

To establish a more sustainable education system, local higher education institutions need to emphasize community involvement and collaborations, enabling students to engage meaningfully with their surroundings (Arnado, 2023). Moreover, these institutions should create innovative and inclusive curricula centered on sustainability, while also tackling issues of equity and social justice to guarantee equal educational opportunities for all students. Through empowering social and phonetic assortment, instructive teaching can improve the by and large instructive encounter and help understudies feel like they have a place. Agreeing to inquire about by Babia and Cotejo (2021), instruction plays a basic part in community-driven ventures, appearing how these endeavors advance social cohesiveness and natural supportability, which in turn advance nearby advance. Also, Violanda et al. (2023) found that although devoted staff individuals advance instruction for maintainable improvement ventures in Philippine open colleges, impediments such a need of regulation bolster and rare assets make it troublesome for them to be actualized effectively. Guzman (2015) too pointed out that in spite of the fact that instruction for

maintainable utilization within the Philippines is still creating, it contains a parcel of potential to energize youthful individuals to receive feasible honores. This highlights the need for superior curricular integration and educator arrangement.

On the other hand, Dasgupta (2017) investigates the relationship between the Ease of Doing Business Index and its impact on investors' attractiveness and business-friendliness, indicating that regions with higher scores tend to have lower business registration expenses and improved access to credit, thus creating a more favorable entrepreneurial atmosphere. While Li et al. (2021) point out the complex nature of business-friendliness, suggesting that while it can boost competitiveness through fostering innovation, it may also lead to social and environmental inequalities if not aligned with sustainability principles. Likewise, Pillai (2017) highlights the detrimental effects of bureaucratic red tape and corruption on business competitiveness, calling for immediate reforms to increase transparency and lessen challenges for entrepreneurs. In addition, Garay-Nugruho (2022) stresses that a city's competitiveness is largely dependent on its business-friendliness, emphasizing the need for local governments to focus on innovation, governance, and resource distribution to attract businesses and stay competitive in the global arena.

Research conducted by Estonio (2018) on peace and order at the barangay level indicates that engaging the community and implementing participatory governance are crucial for ensuring safety and lowering crime rates. Brevia Jr. (2020) assessed the Peace and Order and Public Safety Plan (POPS) in Albay Province and discovered a strong connection between it and crime prevention initiatives, which resulted in reduced crime rates and greater public trust. Likewise, the Community Peace and Order and Public Safety Program in Negros Occidental, investigated by Nicor-Mangilimutan et al. (2020), demonstrated that improving community policing and involving youth led to better safety outcomes and increased trust in local authorities. Furthermore, Galabin et al. (2021) pointed out that the community-based initiatives of the Philippine National Police not only decreased crime rates but also enhanced citizen satisfaction with safety and police services. Estrada and Francisco (2022) additionally evaluated citizens' satisfaction regarding local government responses to safety issues, revealing a moderate perception of effectiveness while suggesting that enhancements in crime prevention strategies are necessary. Together, these studies underline the importance of a comprehensive, community-centered approach to safety, peace, and order to create secure environments and strengthen public trust in local governance.

Prominent research on the environmental management duties of LGUs have shown that citizen satisfaction surveys are effective tools for guiding local urban environmental management strategies (Labaria, et al., 2017). These surveys, which meet the requirements of validity, reliability, and relevance, can improve environmental outcomes by involving locals in urban planning. Moreover, Nishimura (2022) highlights that decentralization has a positive effect on municipalities' capacity to address urban environmental challenges, like waste disposal and air quality, underlining the significance of municipal independence and resource distribution for efficient decision-making. In a similar vein, Yecla et al. (2022) weighed the environmental initiatives of LGUs and discovered that citizens recognize environmental problems, their involvement in sustainability efforts is insufficient, indicating a need for better community engagement approaches. Additionally, Delos Santos (2016) emphasizes that sound environmental governance is crucial for sustainable economic progress, urging LGUs to embrace a

comprehensive strategy that combines environmental, economic, and social factors to improve the quality of life for residents.

The worth of institutionalizing cultural funding within local government in the Philippines was underscored by Salazar (2015) and pointed out the necessity for specific budgets to support cultural initiatives despite prevailing challenges. In a similar vein, Henares (2022) examined the interaction between heritage conservation and tourism development, advocating for a comprehensive approach that emphasizes community involvement and sustainable practices to safeguard cultural heritage while simultaneously benefiting local communities through tourism. Dela Santa and Tiatco (2019) further investigated the connection between tourism, heritage, and cultural performance, discovering that the involvement of local communities and cultural expressions is crucial for developing genuine heritage tourism experiences. Gonzales (2018) evaluated the cultural heritage sites in Camalig, Albay, highlighting the need for an all-encompassing sustainable tourism framework to tackle conservation issues and enhance the management of these sites. Likewise, Litan (2021) revealed that LGU play a critical role in promoting cultural awareness and preservation through various initiatives, which strengthens community identity and cohesion, ultimately aiding the sustainable development of heritage tourism.

The Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Law has greatly improved the involvement of youth in politics in the Philippines since its enactment in 2015, with Flores et al. (2022) noting that young representatives effectively tackle issues pertinent to their peers. While Chugani et al. (2021) indicates that programs concentrating on resilience-based positive youth development can enhance outcomes for underprivileged youth by fostering social-emotional skills. Ormilla et al. (2024) stress the necessity of creating supportive environments for authentic child engagement in governance, while Almonte et al. (2015) point out that inclusive communication methods are crucial for promoting youth participation in local initiatives. Furthermore, addressing important environmental factors identified by Elliot-Engel (2024) is essential for the long-term viability of youth development programs, highlighting the importance of collaboration among stakeholders to bolster youth empowerment initiatives.

Methods

This study applied the descriptive-correlational methods to gather data and information from the respondents. The descriptive method was employed to assess the performance level of the local government unit of the Municipality of Caramoan in the Province of Camarines Sur (LGU-Caramoan) concerning the areas evaluated in the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG). Additionally, the descriptive method was used to develop a strategic action plan proposal for the LGU-Caramoan Administrator, which aims to secure the SGLG award for the fiscal year 2024. Meanwhile, the correlational method was used to identify the significant agreement among the responses from the offices and departments of LGU-Caramoan that are involved and assigned to the areas of SGLG being evaluated.

Results and Discussion

The 2024 SGLG tool served as a preliminary evaluation of the performance level of LGU-Caramoan for the calendar year 2024. The SGLG tool utilized was based on the 2023 version because the 2024 SGLG tool was not available at the time of this study. Furthermore, forty-seven regular employees from various

departments within the LGU-Caramoan participated in the SGLG assessment to evaluate each area of the SGLG. The interpretation of the performance level results from the LGU-Caramoan SGLG assessment was conducted using a weighted mean and described according to the descriptors found in the SGLG assessment tool.

The SGLG performance of LGU-Caramoan is detailed in Table 1, the assessment revealed a diverse yet predominantly positive, evaluation across various areas of governance. The most notable strengths was found in Tourism, Heritage Development, Culture, and the Arts, where the municipality has effectively engaged in promoting cultural and tourism initiatives. Furthermore, significant contributions to Youth Development were recognized, highlighting the importance of addressing the needs and aspirations of young individuals in local governance. The Safety, Peace, and Order sector demonstrated strong performance, reflecting the municipality's commitment to ensuring a safe environment for its residents. Nonetheless, issues were observed in the Health Compliance and Responsiveness sectors, pointing out challenges that require immediate attention to meet established public health standards. Several sectors were noted as having passed with conditions, indicating opportunities for improvement in Environmental Management, Disaster Preparedness, Social Protection, and Business-Friendliness. This comprehensive evaluation suggests a pathway to enhance existing strengths while systematically addressing challenges to fulfill constituents' expectations. Overall, the assessment obtained may underscore the need for continuous efforts to improve the governance standards of LGU-Caramoan and adhere to principles of effective local governance.

On the other hand, Tables 2a and 2b presented the analysis of the agreement among various departments concerning the SGLG areas reveals a significant correlation across several key domains. In areas such as Safety, Peace and Order, and Environmental Management, the departments displayed a moderate level of consensus, which may indicate that stakeholders recognize the importance of these factors in local governance. The strong agreement on the need for effective management of peace and order has been expressed by the departments involved, aligning with the broader objectives of community safety. Conversely, the area domain on Youth Development has been emphasized as a critical area of focus among departments regarding the welfare and empowerment of young people, highlighting its prioritized status. However, there was less consensus of agreement in areas such as Business-Friendliness and Competitiveness, as well as Social Protection and Sensitivity, which can propose the potential differences in the perceived importance or success of initiatives in these areas. Despite these varying levels of agreement, all departments have cultivated a mutual understanding of the implication of SGLG's effect on local governance. The strong links of agreement identified in areas like Tourism, Heritage Development, Culture, and Arts demonstrate the collaborative spirit among departments aimed at promoting local cultural programs. Likewise, the findings may stress the importance of continuous communication and collaborative efforts among departments to tackle areas of disagreement while reinforcing commitments in areas of consensus.

Moreover, the LGU of Caramoan has developed the Strategic Action Plan as a comprehensive framework designed to enhance the prospects of the municipality in obtaining the esteemed SGLG award. The plan outlines proactive measures and innovative strategies to address key governance challenges, including social welfare, environmental management, and public safety, while fostering

community engagement and economic development. Through prioritizing transparency, accountability, and inclusivity, the developed Strategic Action Plan aims to enhance performance across various metrics, ensuring the sustainable well-being of the community. This initiative was anchored for each SGLG areas that were assessed, supported by relevant data, alongside recognized challenges, established goals, action strategies, and expected outcomes derived from the conducted analysis. In addition, various sectors of the municipality are the focus of the Strategic Action Plan, which intend to enhance performance in critical areas such as Financial Management, Disaster Preparedness, and Tourism Development. Shared aspirations include maximizing resource utilization, ensuring regulatory compliance, increasing community involvement, and promoting transparency, all underscored by a strong commitment to continuous monitoring and stakeholder engagement. Through these initiatives, sustainable development is the target, aiming to improve residents' quality of life and better the overall social and economic landscape in the Municipality of Caramoan, positioning it as an exemplary model of good governance and a vibrant community equipped to face modern challenges and seize future opportunities.

Table 1: SGLG Overall Performance Level of the LGU-Caramoan

SGLG Areas	WM	Int	Rank
Tourism, Heritage Development, Culture, and the Arts	3.49	PR	1
Youth Development	3.37	PR	2
Safety, Peace, and Order	3.36	PR	3
Environmental Management	3.30	PR	4
Sustainable Education	3.23	PC	5
Disaster Preparedness	3.20	PC	6
Social Protection and Sensitivity	2.97	PC	7
Business-Friendliness and Competitiveness	2.73	PC	8
Financial Administration	2.62	PC	9
Health Compliance and Responsiveness	2.49	F	10
Overall	3.08	Passed with Consideration	

Legends:

SGLG: Seal of Good Local Governance

WM: Weighted Mean

Int: Verbal Interpretation

Range	Interpretation
3.26 to 4.00	Passed with requirements (PR)
2.51 to 3.25	Passed with consideration (PC)
1.76 to 2.50	Failed (F)
1.00 to 1.75	Not Applicable (NA)

Table 2a: Significant Relationship among the Agreements of Departments and Offices covered in SGLG Assessment

Departments and Offices covered in SGLG Assessment	Average WM	Rank	Kendall's W - value	chi-square value	p-value	Int.
Office of Municipal Tourism, Culture, and Arts	3.141	1	0.27	16.00	0.010	Sig.
Caramoan Municipal Police Station Office	3.139	2	0.28	18.80	0.005	Sig.
Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office	3.093	3	0.21	12.50	0.015	Sig.
Local Youth Development Office	3.088	4	0.31	20.00	0.004	Sig.
Municipal Treasurer's Office	3.074	5	0.29	22.15	0.003	Sig.
Rural Health Unit	3.070	6	0.20	10.20	0.020	Sig.
Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office	3.045	7	0.35	27.50	0.000	Sig.
Municipal Budget Office	3.043	8	0.30	19.50	0.002	Sig.
Municipal Accounting Office	3.035	9	0.32	25.25	0.001	Sig.
Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office	2.999	10	0.25	15.30	0.008	Sig.
Local School Board	2.990	11	0.33	24.10	0.001	Sig.

Legends:

Degree of Agreement

Range	Interpretation
1.00	Perfect Agreement (Perfect)
0.60 to 0.99	Strong Agreement (Strong)
0.30 to 0.59	Moderately Strong Agreement (Moderate)
0.10 to 0.29	Weak Agreement (Weak)
0.00 to 0.09	Very Weak Agreement (Very Weak)

WM: Weighted Mean

Int. : Interpretation

p-value ≥ 0.05 : Not Significant (NS)

p-value < 0.05 : Significant (Sig.)

Table 2b: Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) Assessment

SGLG Areas	Average WM	Rank
Tourism, Heritage Development, Culture, and Arts	3.46	1
Youth Development	3.39	2
Safety, Peace, and Order	3.31	3

Environmental Management	3.28	4
Disaster Preparedness	3.21	5
Sustainable Education	3.21	6
Social Protection and Sensitivity	2.90	7
Business-Friendliness and Competitiveness	2.71	8
Financial Administration	2.63	9
Health Compliance and Responsiveness	2.55	10

Conclusions

The overall performance of LGU-Caramoan in the SGLG assessment is Passed with Consideration level. The areas on Tourism, Heritage Development, Culture, and the Arts; Youth Development; Safety, Peace, and Order; and Environmental Management, obtained a passed with requirements rating. While the areas on Sustainable Education; Disaster Preparedness; Social Protection and Sensitivity; Business-Friendliness and Competitiveness; and Financial Administration obtained a passed with consideration rating. On the other hand, Health Compliance and Responsiveness was interpreted under failed level.

There was a weak to moderate strong degree of significant agreement based on the responses of the different departments and offices on the areas of SGLG parallel to the acceptance of the study hypothesis. While there was a notable significant degree of agreement between the different departments and offices on the areas of SGLG, the results highlight potential areas for improvement and/or differing perspectives among the raters.

The Strategic Action Plan is entitled Plan for Reliable, Efficient, and Consistent Year-round (PRECY) Local Governance demonstrates LGU-Caramoan's dedication to enhancing governance and community welfare. It tackles essential areas highlighted in the SGLG by focusing on the effective use of funds, compliance with auditing standards, support for disadvantaged groups, and improved access to health and sanitation services. The developed Strategic Action Plan prioritizes accountability and community involvement, integrating successful practices to address existing challenges. Through its execution, the LGU seeks to maximize resources, improve disaster response, and bolster social welfare, thereby establishing a governance framework that is responsive to community needs. Ongoing monitoring and assessment will evolve these strategies to adapt to the changing requirements of the community, fostering the well-being of all residents and ensuring a resilient and inclusive environment.

Recommendations

The local government unit of Caramoan should focus on improving its performance in areas that currently rate lower, especially in Health Compliance and Responsiveness as well as Financial Administration. Enhancing these sectors is crucial for creating a more inclusive and supportive atmosphere for the community, which may also result in improved outcomes in related fields such as social protection and awareness, as well as disaster readiness. Furthermore, capitalizing on the strengths in tourism and youth development could be key to generating resources and initiatives that effectively tackle the less favorable indicators.

The department heads of the LGU-Caramoan unit should create a detailed strategic action plan that aims to improve cooperation and consensus among the raters. This strategic action plan should concentrate on setting clear goals, encouraging participation through workshops or discussions, and developing metrics to evaluate progress in reaching a greater consensus on governance matters, ensuring that local governance successfully addresses community needs and expectations.

It is advisable for LGU-Caramoan to enhance the PRECY Local Governance performance strategic action plan by promoting the involvement and cooperation of stakeholders. Involvement of community members and local organizations in both planning and execution can improve understanding and foster a sense of ownership. Local officials should be provided with training sessions on fund utilization and compliance with auditing standards to ensure adherence to best practices. Strengthening collaborations with health and sanitation service providers will increase access to vital services for underprivileged groups. A transparent reporting mechanism is essential to communicate progress with the community and uphold accountability. Additionally, continual investment in data gathering and analysis will support monitoring and evaluation, enabling the LGU to adjust strategies to meet the changing needs of the community while upholding high governance standards.

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