

The Status of Mandatory Representation for Indigenous Peoples: A Critical Evaluation of Performance and Challenges

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ABSTRACT

The Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative (IPMR) role, established by national laws like the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) in the Philippines, is a vital link between Indigenous communities and local government, advocating for their needs and rights. The IPMR has the authority to propose ordinances and policies that benefit the community, focusing on areas such as education, healthcare, and cultural preservation. The study utilizes a qualitative approach, using thematic analysis to extract relevant interpretations and results from data gathered through key informant interviews. This study reveals that the Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative (IPMR) of the Municipality of Tupi has an active engagement to benefit the IP communities. Further, it also shows the challenges that affect the performance of the IPMR.

INTRODUCTION

The Philippines is composed to one hundred and ten (110) ethnolinguistic groups with distinct traditions, cultures, and practices that have, till today, kept their identities alive as Indigenous people of the Philippines. According to Carino and Doyle (2013), the presence of Indigenous Peoples has been acknowledged solely by the Philippine Constitution of 1987. It emphasizes preserving and upholding the ethno-group, as stated in Article II, Section 10 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, which states that the state shall promote social fairness in every stage of national development. Moreover, Article XIV, Section 17 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates that the state recognize, respect, and preserve the rights of indigenous cultural communities. Indeed, the national government upholds and safeguards Indigenous Peoples' rights. As a result, the Philippine government established the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) by enacting Republic Act No. 8371, commonly known as the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA).

On October 29, 1997, former President Fidel V. Ramos signed into law the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA). The international community, government, and civil society recognized it as historic legislation. Ten years later, from 1987 to 1997, Congress passed the bill that became known as IPRA. The 1987 Constitution included creative native property ideas. After 10 years of combining bills on ancestral domain and lands, as well as substantial public participation, Senator Juan M. Flavio's 1995 legislation withstood the test. Throughout the process, the International Decade of Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations praised the Philippines for making the first legal breakthrough for any state (National Commission on Indigenous People [NCIP], 2019). According to the law of the land, the Philippine Constitution acknowledges Indigenous Peoples as a separate legal entity within the country. Article I, Section 22 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that the state is responsible for protecting indigenous cultural communities' rights to their ancestral lands in order to ensure their economic, social, and cultural well-being, while adhering to the provisions of the Constitution and national development policies and programs. Section 5 and Article XII of the treaty clearly recognize and protect the rights of indigenous cultural communities, as long as they operate within the framework of national development and unity.

The Philippine government established the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) in order to give legitimacy to the constitutional framework. Consequently, the legislative legislation known as the Indigenous Peoples' Act (IPRA), officially designated as Republic Act No. 8371, was established (Carino and Doyle, 2013). One manifestation of this recognition is political participation in local legislative bodies, where Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs) and Indigenous Peoples (IPs) appointed an Indigenous People Mandatory Representative in their own customary law policy, which was overseen by NCIP. Despite the growing acknowledgment of Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs) and Indigenous Peoples (IPs), there remains a gap that affects IPMR's ability to legislate effectively for its community, as noted by Villanueva, P. et al (2017), and where this study was encouraged

Indigenous Peoples and minority groups are underrepresented in local legislatures, and the Mandatory Representatives advocate for the concerns and welfare of all ICCs and IPs. Moreover, The challenges related to the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) Law mandates the representation of Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs) and Indigenous Peoples (IPs) in local legislative councils (Villanueva et al., 2017). Meanwhile, the Indigenous peoples reflect their constituents' ethnolinguistic identities and political practices. However, participants can achieve only limited representation by aligning their proposed ordinances with existing laws and including Indigenous interests in the local legislative agenda. Institutional challenges and insufficient community engagement hinder their ability to represent effectively (Dolo et al., 2024).

The mandatory involvement of Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs) in all policymaking organizations and local legislative councils is critical to guaranteeing the protection and exercise of their basic rights. Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs) and Indigenous Peoples (IPs) should be represented proportionally to their populations, and they should have equitable access to legislative bodies and policymaking institutions (NCIP, 1998). This representation in local legislative bodies will benefit the particular cultural communities by reducing economic marginalization, depending on how their IPMR fulfills its functional governance as a regular member of the Local Legislative Council.

With that, the researcher aimed to delve into the complex area of Indigenous People Mandatory Representations in the Municipality of Tupi, South Cotabato, addressing both ontological and epistemological concerns surrounding this critical topic. Ontologically, the researcher observes and analyzes current social issues affecting Indigenous people, as depicted in publications and newspaper articles. These real-world instances show the challenges, successes, and difficulty that Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representatives encounter, providing insight into the actual ramifications of political representation in these communities. Epistemologically, the study delves into academic claims based on a thorough review of the literature, examining theoretical frameworks, legal frameworks such as the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA Law) or RA 8371, and scholarly insights that contribute to a better understanding of Indigenous political participation and representation.

Furthermore, this study is focused on the development initiatives undertaken by the representatives, the effective performance of IPMR under constitutional and legal mandates, and the challenges that hinder their effectiveness.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

The Indigenous peoples play a vital role in reflecting their constituents' ethnolinguistic identities and political practices. To enhance their representation, participants can work towards aligning their proposed ordinances with existing laws while actively integrating Indigenous interests into the local legislative agenda. By addressing institutional challenges and fostering greater community

engagement, they can strengthen their ability to represent effectively and ensure that all voices are heard in the decision-making process (Dolo et al., 2024). Also, the challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representatives (IPMRs), including lack of support from Local Government Units (LGUs) and funding, as well as bureaucratic obstacles from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP). These issues limit their ability to advocate for ancestral land ownership and community initiatives. Conflicting priorities and insufficient policy support often hinder their effectiveness ([Fajilagmago et al., 2025](#)).

This study was anchored on the theoretical framework of James Madison's Republicanism theory, which was crafted from 1786 to 1792. This theory is closely connected to his views on representation, and it can be associated with both the "delegates model" and the "trustees model" of representation. This two-part model is related to this study, where the representation of the Indigenous People Mandatory Representative is the mouthpiece of the constituents, which is the Indigenous community, and they use their judgment and expertise to make decisions in the best interest of this minority.

These models describe different approaches to how elected officials should represent the interests of their constituents. In the delegate model, representatives are seen as delegates or agents of the people who elected them. According to this perspective, representatives should closely mirror the preferences and opinions of their constituents. The delegate's model aligns with the idea that representatives are directly accountable to their members and should act as conduits for the expressed will of the people. While Madison is often associated with the trustee's model, there are instances where his republicanism theory aligns with aspects of the delegate's model. For example, Madison recognized the importance of representatives being responsive to the needs and desires of their constituents (Dovi, 2018).

The trustee's model of Edmund Burke places a significant emphasis on the representative's duty to exercise independent judgment and act in the nation's best interests. While he acknowledged the importance of constituents, he believed specific instructions should not bind representatives and should prioritize the common good. (Harris & Ian, 2023). Madison's trusteeship model is evident in his emphasis on the independence of representatives and their ability to exercise reasoned judgment. He believed that representatives should not be mere mouthpieces for the immediate passions of the public. Madison's Federalist No. 10, where he addresses the faction issue, reflects a trusteeship perspective. He argued that representatives should be able to resist the pressures of factional interests and make decisions that serve the common good.

These models identified the challenges faced by the representative in the study. In Madison's concept of representation, the delegate's model assumes that representatives made decisions based on reason and the common good. However, political considerations, personal biases, and emotions frequently influence human decision-making. The assumption of rational decision-making may only sometimes align with the complexities of real-world political dynamics. The challenges to public trust and confidence in this concept will depend on public trust in the political system. Challenges like political polarization, false

information, and perceptions of corruption can erode public trust, potentially undermining the efficacy of the representative democracy that Madison envisioned. Lastly, Madison's focus on managing factionalism might lead to a situation where specific minority interests are underrepresented or marginalized. The challenge lies in striking a balance between preventing the tyranny of the majority and ensuring that diverse voices are adequately represented.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopted the descriptive research design method for gathering relevant data about the study. The study used a key informant interviews (KII) to gather rich and detailed information about the political representation of indigenous peoples in local legislative body of Municipality of Tupi, South Cotabato, Southern Philippines. Moreover, This study incorporated the interpretivist philosophical worldview, a paradigm that emphasizes the importance of understanding and interpreting human experiences, behaviors, and social phenomena within their specific contexts.

Participants

Selection criteria was employed in this study. There were 10 participants selected according to these criteria: first, the participants should be a resident of the Municipality of Tupi, South Cotabato. Secondly, the participants should be members of the indigenous political structure. These included Indigenous Peoples/Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs/IPs): this is the member of the Indigenous community; Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative (IPMR): this is the selected representative of the community at the local level; Tribal Chieftain: the leader of the community within the barangay; Indigenous Peoples Structure (IPS): the cultural leader of the community most of the member is elders; and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP): the agency that applies only to this community. These subjects are under RA 8371 Section 16, where Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples fully participate in local legislation decision-making. Finally, only those participants who are available and agree to become informants will be observed and interviewed.

Data Collection

The researcher has developed an interview guide questionnaire as a crucial tool to determine the various aspects that need to be explored within the scope of the study. This questionnaire served as a framework for conducting key informant interviews (KIIs) and ensured consistency in the data collection process. The researcher gained an overview of the topic by including general questions and establishes a baseline understanding. However, the questionnaire

was complemented with in-depth and probing questions to achieve a more comprehensive understanding. These targeted inquiries aimed to uncover nuanced insights and encourage participants to provide detailed responses.

In the qualitative data gathering, the researcher sent a letter to respected offices of Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs), Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative (IPMR), Indigenous People (IPs), and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) involved in the study. These letters communicated the purpose of the research, provided details about scheduling interviews, and offered any relevant information about the subject matter being investigated. The interviews were conducted interactively, using open-ended questions to encourage participants to share their perspectives and insights. The researcher made recordings throughout the discussions to ensure accurate documentation of the entire conversation. This recording process captured the interview duration and enable the researcher to review and analyze the data more effectively.

Furthermore, the researcher prioritized establishing a rapport with the participants during the interviews. By fostering a comfortable and supportive environment, participants were likelier to open up and share their experiences and opinions more freely. The interactive nature of the interviews allowed for a dynamic and engaging conversation where the researcher can ask follow-up questions, seek clarification, and explore relevant topics in greater depth. In addition to conducting interviews, the researcher relied on field notes for data collection. These field notes involved direct observation of the research setting, noting comments, interactions, and other relevant details contributing to understanding the research context. The field notes provided valuable context and supplementary information to complement the interview data, offering a more comprehensive perspective on the topic under investigation. By employing a combination of interactive interviews, recording techniques, and field notes, the researcher aimed to gather a rich and diverse set of qualitative data

Data Analysis

The present research involved a mini-case study approach that investigates specific phenomena within the municipality of Tupi South Cotabato. This approach allowed for a comprehensive examination of the research topic, generating rich qualitative data that offers valuable insights and contributes to a deeper understanding of the complexities involved. The researcher employed thematic analysis to analyze the data collected from the key informant interviews. By employing thematic analysis, the researcher identifies and categorized key themes and patterns emerging from the participants' responses. These themes provided a structured framework to explore and analyze the data,

allowing for a comprehensive examination of the research questions and objectives.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section determines the following areas: (1) development initiatives undertaken by the representatives, (2) effective performance of IPMR under constitutional and legal mandates, and (3) challenges that hinder their effectiveness

Development initiatives by Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative (IPMR)

Despite actions initiated by the IPMR, limited funding from the local government resulted in few policies being provided to the indigenous peoples community in the Municipality of Tupi, Philippines.

In the area of social development undertaken by the Indigenous Peoples Mandatory (IPMR). Despite of lack of office budget the IPMR assert effort to create initiatives to help his constituents in social aspect, to wit:

First, the IPMR provide awareness to ensure the constituents are informed about the status of governance, promoting transparency and accountability. This reflects the IPMR's responsibility to bridge communication between indigenous communities and local governments, ensuring that the community is actively involved and aware of governance-related issues. Second, due to the limited budget allocated to the office, the Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative (IPMR) took the initiative to personally fund the operations and activities of the office. This selfless act includes covering essential expenses to ensure the office remains functional and capable of serving its constituents effectively. The IPMR's personal contributions have been particularly crucial in assisting community members in resolving their issues, demonstrating a deep commitment to public service and the welfare of the people they represent. Third, the Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative (IPMR) of Tupi actively takes the initiative in drafting and proposing ordinances and resolutions that address the needs and concerns of the community. These proposals aim to promote the welfare of Indigenous Peoples, safeguard their rights, and ensure their voices are heard in policymaking. Through these efforts, the IPMR demonstrates a proactive approach to governance, striving to create meaningful and lasting impact for the betterment of their community but this efforts and initiatives are rejected and not priority of the local legislative bodies.

Meanwhile, in the area of economic development, the informants noted that there are currently only a few initiatives in place, such as livelihood programs. However, Bong Fulong, the IPMR, has taken proactive steps by proposing several resolutions and requests for additional projects to further support the community. These proposals include providing free vocational courses, constructing a bridge for places, particularly those affected by the flood, and cementing the road leading to the market, particularly to assist Indigenous Peoples (IP) vendors in transporting and selling their goods more efficiently. However, despite these efforts, the proposals have been rejected or refused due

to a lack of support from the local and provincial councils, as well as insufficient budget allocations. This has hindered the expansion of economic development initiatives for the Indigenous community.

On the other hand, in terms of political development, significant initiatives have been implemented, including the establishment of Kasfala Halls at the municipal level and in selected barangays in Tupi. However, due to limited funding, not all barangays currently have these halls. The IPMR is actively working to secure resources and establish more Kasfala Halls across other barangays within the Municipality of Tupi. These halls play a crucial role in the Blaán community, serving as venues for proceedings, deliberations, and meetings. They provide a comfortable and dedicated space for gatherings, enabling more productive and meaningful discussions. By being present at both the municipal and barangay levels, Kasfala Halls enhance accessibility for community members, offering a proper platform for raising concerns, seeking assistance, and fostering greater community engagement and support.

Lastly, other Development, as stated by most of the informants, the IPMR has undertaken other development initiatives, such as providing free marriage contracts to the indigenous community in Tupi. They have two legal solemnizing officers available to conduct these marriages, offering a valuable service to the community. Another significant development initiative undertaken by the Municipal Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative (IPMR) is fostering partnerships with private sectors to support the educational aspirations of Indigenous Peoples (IP) students. Through these collaborations, scholarship programs have been established to provide financial assistance, including allowances, to help deserving IP students pursue their studies. This initiative not only eases the financial burden on students and their families but also empowers the youth by enabling access to education, contributing to the long-term development and upliftment of the Indigenous community.

The finding implies that these development initiatives should be a priority of the IPMR in Municipality of Tupi because its primary function is to help the community by proposing and creating ordinances that would address the community concerns in terms of social, economic, and political because of this challenges such as lack of budget and support from province and local council it limits the capability of the IPMR to do his duty. These challenges already exist in other Cities and municipalities. As discussed by Villanuve (2017), In the City of Palayan there are some constraints in terms of conflicting perspectives on the political identity of IPMR; they were met with less enthusiasm and difficulty in gaining recognition from the local council and local chief executive to appoint, especially those who are not sympathetic to the political interests of local chief executives. Lack of funds on the part of traditional leaders forces them to rely on political connections to obtain support for the needs of their communities. They only had very limited sponsored resolutions but remain unimplemented because of a lack of support from the local chief executives and due to budgetary constraints. It was also noted during the actual interview that IPMRs are not competent enough to defend his proposal resolutions and ordinance because of limited knowledge in parliamentary procedure of the local legislative of

Municipality of Tupi and this is of the reason why their proposal is rejected in local legislative.

Effective performance of IPMR under the Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution and the Republic Act 8371

The effectiveness of the Indigenous People Mandatory Representative (IPMR) in spearheading social, economic, political, and other important development initiatives for the community based on their basis of effectiveness of the leadership of the IPMR of Tupi such as community engagement regularly interacts with and listens to the concerns of the people they represent, ensuring their voices are heard and his effort to fulfill his duty and promoting Inclusivity Ensures marginalized groups, such as Indigenous Peoples, are adequately represented in discussions and decisions. The Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative (IPMR) is fulfilling his duty despite limited resources, the IPMR continues to work diligently, fulfilling the role of being the voice and representative of the Indigenous community within the local legislative body. As stated in Jame's Madison Republicanism theory the delegate's model assumes that representatives will make decisions based on reason and the common good for the community.

The Philippine Constitution (Article II, Section 22) affirms the rights of indigenous cultural communities (ICCs) and promotes their involvement within the national unity framework, this provision alone is insufficient. There is a lack of support, especially at the local level. Additionally, though the Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative (IPMR) has fulfilled duties as per Section 16 of Republic Act 8371, which grants ICCs/IPs the right to participate in decision-making processes affecting their rights and welfare, support from local legislative bodies in Tupi has been inadequate. Another challenge is the IPMR's limited knowledge of parliamentary procedures, making it difficult to draft, present, and defend ordinances and resolutions effectively. Consequently, even when beneficial proposals are submitted, they often face rejection due to procedural misunderstandings or a lack of persuasive presentation. This obstacle hinders the IPMR's capacity to gain support from the local council and the provincial office. Additionally, a lack of funding further hampers the implementation of community initiatives, despite their potential positive impact.

Nevertheless, the IPMR remains dedicated to advocating for the community, striving to push forward development projects. Despite the slower progress caused by these external constraints, the IPMR's persistent efforts ensure that the needs and concerns of Indigenous people continue to be voiced, underscoring a commitment to community development even in the face of limited support.

The Challenges of IPMR that impede its effective performance

Below are the challenges that affect the performance of the IPMR, to wit:
Limited Resources: A significant challenge facing the Indigenous People Mandatory Representative (IPMR) is the persistent lack of resources. Insufficient funding severely limits the IPMR's ability to propose development projects and

address the needs of the Indigenous community. Many initiatives that require financial support for materials, infrastructure, or professional services fail to move forward, stalling efforts to improve community facilities or access essential services such as healthcare, education, and livelihood programs. This financial shortfall also makes it challenging to organize and sustain community programs effectively. Activities like cultural events, workshops, training sessions, and outreach initiatives depend on consistent funding. Without adequate resources, these events may be scaled back or canceled, reducing participation and weakening the sense of community and shared identity. Additionally, collaboration with other government agencies has not yielded sufficient support for Indigenous Peoples, as these agencies often fail to prioritize their needs. Even the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), despite its mandate to support Indigenous communities, struggles with budgetary constraints, further compounding the issue. The lack of resources not only hampers the IPMR's ability to represent and uplift the community but also limits the overall development and resolution of critical issues. Addressing this challenge is vital to ensuring the effectiveness of the IPMR and advancing the well-being of Indigenous Peoples.

Limited knowledge in Creating Resolution or ordinance: One significant challenge faced by the Indigenous People Mandatory Representative (IPMR) is limited knowledge in creating resolutions or ordinances. Drafting these legal documents is essential for the parliamentary procedures within the local council of the Municipality of Tupi. The lack of expertise in this area can severely limit the IPMR's ability to propose effective legislation that addresses the needs and concerns of the indigenous community. Without a clear understanding of the legal and procedural nuances involved in drafting resolutions or ordinances, the IPMR may struggle to articulate proposals in a manner that is both legally sound and persuasive to other council members. This gap in knowledge can lead to delays, rejections, or amendments that dilute the original intent of the proposed measures. Furthermore, the inability to draft well-constructed resolutions or ordinances undermines the IPMR's credibility and influence within the local council. Effective representation requires not only understanding the issues faced by the Indigenous Cultural Community but also the ability to navigate the legislative process competently. If the IPMR lacks the skills to draft robust legal documents, it becomes challenging to advocate for policies that promote the community's welfare and rights. This limitation can result in missed opportunities to secure funding, implement programs, and enact laws that protect and enhance the lives of indigenous people. Therefore, enhancing the IPMR's knowledge and skills in legislative drafting is crucial for fulfilling their role as an effective advocate and representative.

Politicized/Lack of Support: Next factor that affect the performance of the IPMR is the politicized and insufficient support from local, provincial councils and NCIP significantly hampers the efforts of the Indigenous People Mandatory Representative (IPMR). When the IPMR proposes projects or resolutions aimed at improving the community's well-being, insufficient backing from these governing bodies can lead to delays or outright rejections. This lack of

prioritization and approval for critical initiatives means that many potentially beneficial projects never come to fruition and one of the factors is the Chief-Executive politicized the IPMR because of not same of political party or not align with same party. As a result, essential needs such as infrastructure improvements, educational programs, healthcare services, and economic development opportunities remain unaddressed, leaving the community without the advancements they urgently require.

Moreover, this lack of support undermines the IPMR's ability to be an effective advocate for the indigenous community. Without the endorsement and resources from local and provincial councils, the representative's influence and capacity to enact meaningful change are severely restricted. This challenge already exists in other municipalities and cities. According to Villanueva et al. (2017), they only had very limited sponsored resolutions but remain unimplemented because of lack of support from the Local Chief Executives and due to budgetary constraints. This can lead to frustration and disenchantment within the community, as they see their representative struggling to fulfill promises and deliver tangible results. The perceived ineffectiveness due to external support deficiencies can also erode the trust and confidence the community places in their IPMR, ultimately weakening the role and its intended purpose of being a strong voice for indigenous rights and development within the legislative framework.

Capacity Building: It is essential for the Indigenous People Mandatory Representative (IPMR) and community members to enhance their effectiveness and advocacy. Continuous training and development are crucial, particularly in areas such as parliamentary procedures and leadership skills. The IPMR and community leaders often acknowledge their lack of expertise in parliamentary procedures, which can significantly hinder their ability to draft resolutions, propose ordinances, and navigate the legislative process. Without a solid understanding of these procedures, they may struggle to present their proposals effectively or to influence policy decisions that impact their community. Moreover, leadership training is vital for empowering the IPMR to lead the community confidently and competently. Effective leadership requires a range of skills, including strategic planning, conflict resolution, and community organizing. Without these skills, the IPMR may find it challenging to mobilize community members, build consensus, and advocate for their needs. Continuous capacity building not only equips the IPMR with the necessary tools to fulfill their responsibilities but also fosters a sense of empowerment and confidence within the community. By investing in training and development, the IPMR and community members can work more cohesively and effectively towards achieving their goals, ultimately leading to more significant and sustainable improvements in their community.

The findings of this study suggest that the Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative (IPMR) should undergo proper training on parliamentary procedures in the local legislative body. This training is crucial because the primary duty of an IPMR, as a member of the local council, is to propose ordinances and resolutions for the Indigenous Cultural Community. Effective

proposals require a strong foundation and the ability to defend and convince the local council to support these initiatives.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings of the study reveal that one of the main barriers to the IPMR's effectiveness is the profound lack of support and budget from the local council, provincial authorities, and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP). While there is an ideal theoretical framework that separates powers and responsibilities among government entities, the practical realities often undermine this structure. The local chief executive frequently exerts considerable influence over budgetary decisions, which can severely restrict the IPMR's access to necessary resources for community initiatives. This situation creates a power dynamic that can sideline the IPMR's role, making it challenging for them to secure funding for essential projects that could foster community growth and well-being. Consequently, the IPMR is left in a position where they are unable to fulfill their duty of representing the Indigenous Cultural Community effectively, leading to frustration both within the IPMR's office and among community members.

Moreover, the limited knowledge in drafting and creating resolutions or ordinances further exacerbates the IPMR's challenges. The legislative process is intricate, requiring a thorough understanding of legal terminology, procedural nuances, and the strategic framing of proposals to resonate with council members. Many IPMRs may lack the formal training necessary to develop these documents effectively, resulting in proposals that are rejected or amended to the point of losing their original intent. This gap in expertise not only diminishes the IPMR's credibility within the council but also hampers their ability to influence policy decisions that are critical for the welfare of their community. The inability to draft well-structured and persuasive ordinances means that opportunities for meaningful legislative advocacy are frequently missed, leaving the community without essential services and support.

The importance of capacity building is to enhance their skill and ability to draft ordinance or resolution in the local legislative council. Continuous training and development in parliamentary procedures and legislative advocacy are essential for empowering the IPMR and ensuring that they can navigate the legislative landscape competently. Additionally, fostering a collaborative environment between the IPMR and local government officials is crucial for enhancing the effectiveness of the IPMR role. Establishing partnerships with local councils, provincial authorities, and the NCIP can help create a more supportive framework for Indigenous representatives. By investing in the training and development of IPMRs, local governments can empower these representatives to advocate effectively for their communities, leading to meaningful change and improved outcomes for Indigenous peoples. Furthermore, fostering collaboration and support between IPMRs and local government officials will strengthen the role of the IPMR, ensuring that the voices of Indigenous communities are heard and respected within the legislative framework.

FURTHER STUDY

The authors would like to recommend to the future researchers to employ a mixed method to triangulate and cross-check the results for more results validity. Also, to expand the study's locale for comparative purposes.

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