Police Community Relations to Building Public Trust

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Abstract

Police-community relations are essential for fostering public confidence, enhancing collaborative governance, and strengthening the legitimacy of law enforcement institutions. This study examined the extent to which police-community relations contribute to building public trust in the Davao del Norte Police Provincial Office, Philippines. Specifically, the study assessed police-community relations in terms of effective communication, collaboration and cooperation, communication and transparency, diversity and representation, and perception of safety. Public trust was evaluated in terms of performance trust, fairness trust, integrity trust, rational trust, and community engagement trust. A quantitative descriptive-correlational research design was employed involving 292 respondents selected through simple random sampling from the eleven police stations and two mobile force companies of the Davao del Norte Police Provincial Office. Data were collected using a validated self-administered questionnaire and analyzed using descriptive statistics and linear regression analysis. The findings revealed that police-community relations obtained an overall mean of 4.61 (Excellent), while public trust achieved an overall mean of 4.58 (Excellent), indicating that both constructs were consistently and effectively practiced. Linear regression analysis demonstrated that police-community relations significantly predicted public trust ($R = .992$, $R^2 = .983$, Adjusted $R^2 = .983$, $F = 17{,}224.935$, $\beta = .992$, $p < .001$), explaining 98.3% of the variance in public trust. The findings underscore that effective communication, collaboration, transparency, diversity, representation, and public safety are critical determinants of public trust in law enforcement institutions. Based on these findings, the study proposed a strategic framework to strengthen police-community relations and sustain public trust through responsive, transparent, and community-oriented policing initiatives.

Keywords: Development Administration; Police-Community Relations; Public Trust; Quantitative Descriptive-Correlational Research; Linear Regression Analysis; Philippines