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## **Dynasties or Non-Dynasties? A Comparative Case Study of Mandaluyong City and Muntinlupa City towards the Achievement of Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Political dynasties as a phenomenon in the Philippine political system are commonly seen as an impediment to development. There have been numerous attempts to curb the existence of political dynasties in the Philippines, as shown by the number of anti-political dynasty bills passed in the Philippine legislative bodies. However, there is a growing concern regarding the validity of these claims. The researchers of this study determined whether or not political dynasties are indeed the inhibitors of underdevelopment in the Philippines. Moreover, the study tested political dynasties' effectivity as the facilitators of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), to provide concrete indicators for development. The study utilized the Principal Agent Theory, which allowed viewing SDGs as the basic goods and services that the constituents demand from their respective agents- which are the local chief executives. A qualitative comparative analysis which employed key informant interviews, analysis of ecological statistics, and a verification process through a constituency survey of Mandaluyong City and Muntinlupa City was utilized in the conduct of the study. The study revealed that the LGU can fulfill SDG 16 whether or not it is headed by a political dynasty and that its governance does not differ that much from one another.*

**Keywords:** Dynasties, Sustainable Development Goals, political system, sustainability

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## INTRODUCTION

In the discourse of Political Science, political dynasties as a phenomenon and a concept have been a consistent and longstanding theme. Hess (1997) defines it as at least four family members in a public office, while Smith (2012) defines it more generously with just two family members having served a public post. In the perspective of Philippine politics, Querubin (2016) emphasized that political dynasties have an advantage and are most likely to gain position due to its dominating aspects. Authors have assessed the preconditions of dynasties, particularly, as to how dynasties are still on the constant end of politics. Dynasties, although undemocratic, are present in democratic states (Dal Bo, Dal Bo, & Snyder, 2009). According to Dal Bo and Snyder, dynasts attempt to include familial individuals in order to strengthen the fame of one's name and gain assets and control over the area of governance. Even with these facts that pertain to the negative side of the existence of dynasties, there are still questions as to why they continue to exist in the political sphere and why they can subsist with non-dynasts. Interestingly, even in today's world of democracy and equality, political dynasties still exist. In the Philippine context, political dynasties exist in almost all levels of the government (Mendoza, Beja, Venida & Yap 2012). However, dynastic tendencies in the Philippines are primarily embedded with negative connotations, wherein political dynasties are seen and perceived by the people as an entity that breeds corruption and inequality (Mendoza, Beja, Venida & Yap 2012). In fact, as of 2013, 70 per cent of the members of the Philippine Congress are from dynastic backgrounds (Trajano, Kenawas 2013).

Political patronage plays a significant role in the election of such families, due to the nature of dynastic families being both affluent and influential in their respective constituencies; it is easy for them to monopolize their local political economy through the mobilization of wealth and of name familiarity (Trajano, Kenawas 2013). Analysts like Paul Hutchcroft have theorized that the predatory natures of familial politics in the Philippines are partly to blame for the country's economic underdevelopment (Tusalem, R.F., & Pe Aguirre, J.J. 2013). Concurrently, Mendoza et al. (2012) analysis on political dynasties in the Philippines has linked poverty and per capita income to dynastic shares wherein poverty, low income, and low education results to more dynastic individuals in the political economy. Tusalem and Pe-Aguirre's (2013) research on political dynasties, specifically in the House of Representatives and their constituencies, have shown that dynasties are not efficient in the delivery of particular goods and services some of the goods specified in their research were asphalt roads,

barangay clinics, crime rate, and unemployment rate, with other goods being of lesser importance.

It is to be stated however, that their research pertains to goods and services that may very well be determined by the national government, such as roads and the establishment of clinics. Moreover, the research merely compares the present conditions of their constituencies, and not the overall development of dynastic and non-dynastic constituencies. Finally, the research primarily targets members of the House of Representatives, whose duty is not the implementation of projects of programs. It is perhaps more advantageous if the local government unit is the scope of analysis.

### **UN Sustainable Development Goals as Benchmarks of Governance**

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Program was initiated at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012. It was meant to replace the UN MDG's (Millennium Development Goals) started in 2000 which primarily focuses on issues regarding poverty, hunger, disease, and education. The SDG program expanded on these issues and adapted a more comprehensive approach on global issues. Goals were established on the aspects of health, culture, society, and energy. These goals represent the ideal vision of development for civilization. So much so, that many nations have used the SDG blueprint to develop local and national plans. The Philippines is no exception; The Philippine Statistics Authority, the government branch concerned with national data, has been tasked to track the progress of SDGs in the Philippines. Authors have also stressed the need for LGUs to emphasize SDGs when it comes to local planning (Roldan, 2018). The evaluation of SDGs is perhaps, an effective way of measuring the impact of political leaders, especially in the sector of LGUs, due to the grassroots characteristics of the LGU. This paper aims to determine whether or not political dynasties in the local government unit can be considered as a facilitator for development, through the analysis of implemented programs and projects related to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, 2012.

### **Political Efforts against Dynasties**

In recent years, there have been numerous attempts in the realms of public policy to curb political dynasties. Bills such as the Anti Political Dynasty Act of 2013 have been filed by legislator Joseph Ejercito in the hopes of preventing dynasties to occur on local government units (Senate Bill No. 1906, 16th Congress). In fact, the SK Reform Bill actually tackles the aspect of political dynasties through the newly imposed qualifications of SK Officials, which disqualifies individual familial relationships up to

the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity of incumbent elected officials to run for the Sanggunian Kabataan. There is, however, much concern whether or not such bills and proposals need to be established. It is true that there are many evidences that provide insights to the negative effects of political dynasties, and their links to various characteristics of ineffective governance such as low economic output, poverty rates, and financial inequality. But to target political dynasties in general without considering other external factors such as culture, education, populism, and common behavior may result to wasted energy and time of Filipino legislators, financial costs, and a re-articulation of proposals. It is imperative that political dynasties must not be used as the scapegoat of ineffective governance.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The underdevelopment and ineffective governance perceived in several layers of governments in the Philippines may be misattributed to political dynasties. As such, this paper seeks to determine whether or not dynasties can be considered as facilitators of development as compared to a non-dynastic system of governance. With this, the researchers hope to shed light for legislators and their future endeavors when tackling the issues of political dynasties, as to not miscalculate and possibly miss the mark. This research embarks on the ambitious journey of checking if the dominant idea of dynasties, that it is a negative for political development, is true for all cases of dynasties, or if other dynasties promote the continuity of development and progress.

## **METHODOLOGY**

This research required the identification of key SDG programs of Mandaluyong City and Muntinlupa City from 2013-present, as well as the analysis of these programs. Thus, statistical data must be collected from the LGU. Secondly, in order to verify the data, respondents from the respective constituencies must be utilized as a verification tool, as to not be crippled by false and biased data. It encompassed both the LGU and the constituencies, due to the fact that the Principal-Agent theory as well as the conceptual framework of this paper seeks to analyze the interaction between principals and agents, the alignment of interests between them, and the successful delivery of commodities and services from the agents to the principals. The City Planning and Development Offices of each local government unit will be identified as the key informants when procuring qualitative data regarding the planning and implementation of Sustainable Development Goals. The respective Planning and Development Offices are tasked with the duty of drafting long-term development plans, such as the city land-use plans, 10-year development plan, and other minor specialized plans such as climate plans and disaster risk management plans.

## Study Site

### *Mandaluyong City*

The researchers focused in Mandaluyong City as one of the two the primary subjects of the study for several reasons. Firstly, Mandaluyong City has been experiencing rapid economic growth in the data that will be provided below. Secondly, Mandaluyong City attained the status of city, from a mere town, during the term of the said dynasty; this point may indicate economic development and growth. Indeed, in 2002, Mandaluyong City was deemed the “Tiger City” when the Philippine Cities Competitiveness Ranking Project conducted by the DTI and the Asian Institute of Management Policy Center released an index which noted that Mandaluyong City has emerged as an economic powerhouse (Philstar Global, 2002). From 1986 to 2001, a mere 15 years, its income grew from 41 Million PHP to 1.2 Billion PHP (Philstar Global, 2002). More factors will be discussed in the proceeding chapters of this paper.

### *Muntinlupa City*

The second LGU is Muntinlupa City, one of the most competitive cities in the country ranking 10th based on its resiliency, infrastructure, government efficiency, and economic dynamism (Orias, 2018). Having this said, it can be pointed out that Muntinlupa has been rising up the ranks with regards to the overall standards for a successful city. With a population of 504,509 having Poblacion as the most populous barangay (Muntinlupa City Government).

Succeeding former Mayor Aldrin San Pedro in 2013, current Mayor Jaime Fresnedi has also been the mayor of Muntinlupa back in the year 1998 to 2007(Muntinlupa City Government). During the term of Mayor Jaime Fresnedi, the city of Muntinlupa has also set a standard with regards to business registration process (Abad, 2017). With the information stated above, it can be said that it has been a fruitful term for the current mayor, achieving milestones for the city and at the same time has also become a model for cities such as Leyte which has planned to duplicate its business processes (Abad, 2017).

These two cities were chosen due to their similarities enumerated below:

1. *Both are first class highly urbanized cities.*
2. *Both have only one congressional district*
3. *Both have two local legislative districts.*
4. *Population disparity is minimal (450k/505k).*

5. *Mandaluyong was incorporated as a city in 1994, while Muntinlupa was in 1995. This would suggest similar conditions in terms of LGU development.*
6. *Both are located in Metro Manila*

### **Sustainable Development Goals as Parameters of Good Governance**

For this study, SDG 16 was utilized as the benchmark of general long-term development. This is because SDG 16 (Sustainable Development Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) comprised of indicators that are politically centered. Furthermore, its indicators are well under the parameters of Local Government Units in the Philippines. Other SDGs may contain stronger influences from economics, such as those SDGs regarding poverty, nutrition, and education, while other SDGs may fall under the jurisdiction of the Central Government, such as those in relation to energy, environment, and wildlife.

Thus, SDG 16 has been utilized by this study as the crux of the comparative analysis between two LGUs, due to the fact that institutional strength is seemingly long-term aspects of governance, whereas other SDGs may be developed during shorter periods of time. This emphasizes the question on whether or not dynastic governance is more effective in administering long-term development. The following indicators were identified by the United Nations as integral to SDG 16:

1. *Reduction of all forms of violence and related deaths*
2. *Promotion of Rule of Law*
3. *Transparent Institutions*
4. *Inclusive Decision-making*
5. *Promotion of non-discriminatory laws*

SDGs 1, 2, & 3, which are No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well-Being respectively can be assumed to be consistent across cities in terms of project implementation, due to the common occurrences of medical missions, feeding programs, and financial assistances. Other SDGs such as poverty, economic growth, and responsible would require the cross-disciplinary theories of economics and would therefore not be feasible. SDGs regarding animals, climate change, and production would also be a national priority first and foremost, and would not be included in this research

## Data Gathering and Analysis

### Ecological Statistics

The first part will be the collection of data of the city regarding the implemented projects and programs related to Sustainable Development Goal 16. Statistical data involving crime rate, violence against women and children reports, and discriminatory reports has been collected. Once the total of each SDG from each LGU has been collected, it will be compared with one another. Thus, the results will be able to reveal if the innate continuity contained as a characteristic political dynasties having a positive effect on program implementation of long-term projects, through SDGs. However, since data coming from the government itself may be falsely procured, then a second measure must be taken to determine the effectiveness of the programs implemented, thus verifying the collected data. In order to gather historical data from 2013-present, the different offices of the LGUs will be requested to present public data for previous programs and projects.

### Key Informant Interviews

Furthermore, the respective Planning and Development Offices of each city will be visited, to interview key city officials regarding the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals and the importance of long-term development over short term programs. The following questions will be asked:

1. *How does your administration emphasize SDG's?*
2. *Are long-term development plans prioritized in your LGU's over short term programs?*
3. *Would political continuity be beneficial for the implementation of SDGs?*
4. *How can we say that the LGU has attained the SDG Goal 16 which is Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.? (Using the indicators outlined above.)*

The data to be collected from the respective key informants shall determine (a) if there are any differences as to how each city emphasizes SDGs; (b) their inclination toward long term development plans as opposed to short term programs; (c) if political continuity would be beneficial in the implementation of sustainable development goals; and (d) how each LGU applied SDG 16 in their long-term development plans and if they were effective or not. Furthermore, awards and seals given by the Central Government, such as the Seal of Good Local Governance, may be used as indicators relative to SDG 16.

### **Verification of Findings (Survey of Sample Population)**

Subsequently, data were collected from 100 random people from each LGU, with questions regarding satisfaction and public perception of the governing elected officials (agents), for a total of 200 respondents. In order to maximize the effectivity of this research, the sample population has been divided into two groups per LGU, to represent the two local legislative districts. Thus, 50 respondents were taken from the 1st district of each LGU, and another 50 respondents were taken from the 2nd district of each LGU.

Slovin's Formula ( $n = N / (1+Ne^2)$ ) was utilized for the formulation of the sample size, given a 10% margin of error and 90% level of confidence, which concluded to approximately 100 respondents per city.

A questionnaire was formulated based on the first-hand data procured from the city governments. The survey form will merely confirm or deny the data provided by the city, and will not contribute any form of qualitative inference whatsoever. This is to decrease subjective responses as to the perception of political dynasties due to the stigma that it is generally associated with. Thus, the survey form was composed of questions that seek to verify whether or not the effects of SDG 16 is felt in the respective constituencies, guided by the indicators of SDG 16 provided by the United Nations.

### **Interpretation of Data**

The effectiveness of the city in implementing programs and projects of SDG 16 was analyzed firstly by qualitatively interpreting the data procured through the key informant interviews. Secondly, ecological statistics gathered from their respective offices was analyzed to determine whether or not the said implementation of SDG 16 is manifested throughout the years. Lastly, to verify the procured data which is supplied by the LGU itself, the constituents of each LGU were surveyed in order to confirm the garnered results, ruling either in the negative or the positive. Moreover, the sample population may rule in the negative for the different projects and programs. In this case, the said program of a specific SDG will be deemed ineffective.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Evidently, Mandaluyong City and Muntinlupa City are both effective in responding to the demands of their constituencies. For this study, the researchers considered Sustainable Development Goals, or its essence, as a basic demand required by the constituents as principals, whereas the city's chief executive officers are identified as the agents. For the purpose of anonymity, the key respondents were

referred by the office of representation. For Muntinlupa, data was procured from the Muntinlupa City Planning and Development Office. Likewise, the Mandaluyong City Planning and Development Department provided data for the case of Mandaluyong. The departmental name “Muntinlupa City Planning and Development Office” shall be abbreviated to CPDO.

### **Mandaluyong and Muntinlupa as Facilitators of Sustainable Development Goals**

Sustainable Development Goals are a concept that has been introduced just recently in 2015. The ‘UN Millennium Development Goals’ was the predecessor of SDGs introduced back in 2000, and carried similar features and characteristics of commitment toward a purpose of societal development. The current mayor assumed office in June 2013, two years prior the establishment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The researchers procured data through a key informant interview with the Muntinlupa CPDO. The respondent has served in the City Planning and Development Office of Muntinlupa for more than 20 years. The MCPDO respondent mentioned that during the current mayor’s first term of office in Muntinlupa City, which was in 2013, he immediately called for a workshop on long term development programs, mainly on social development, economic development, and environmental development. The current mayor then clustered these development goals into five different sectors, economic, social, institutional, infrastructure, and environment. These different clusters encompassed the key areas of the UN Sustainable Development Goals that were to be introduced two years later.

Muntinlupa City under the current mayor integrated their five development clusters into the 18 UN SDGs. Indeed, Muntinlupa City presented a multitude of programs and projects to their citizens in line with the UN SDGs. Some of the key programs identified were Technical Vocational School, Gender Development seminars in schools, E-Jeep and E-Trike distribution, and Fishery.

As specified, the UN SDG 16 which is Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions provided several key indicators for development. One of which is anti-discriminatory laws. Under the current mayor, Muntinlupa City was the first city in the National Capital Region to have established a Muslims Affairs Office, which aimed to provide an avenue for Muslims to express grievances, needs, and issues. The office provides halal certifications throughout Metro Manila, and has participated in humanitarian aid missions to sister city’s such as Marawi. Religious issues are also addressed in the MAO. With this, it is clear that Muntinlupa City has developed a strong sense of equality and has promoted anti discriminatory laws and ordinances. The PWDs are also

represented through the Persons with Disabilities Offices, and LGBTQ+ awareness and sensitivity trainings have been conducted with government employees.

**Table 1. Muslim Affairs Office Statistics**

<b>TYPE</b>	<b>Total Number of Served</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Children</b>
INDIVIDUAL	979 Muslims were assisted (LCR, OSCA, COMELEC, OSMUN, MSP, PCO care card, Schools, SSD) as of 2017	N/A	N/A	N/A
GROUP/ORGANIZATION	(2) Muslim associations were endorsed & accredited to CADO	N/A	N/A	N/A
NUMBER OF MUSLIM INDIVIDUAL PROFILED	3.810 as of 2017	N/A	N/A	N/A
MUSLIM EMPLOYED AT CITY GOVERNMENT OF MUNTINLUPA	N/A	18	3	N/A
EMPLOYED IN PRIVATE SECTORS	N/A	N/A	34	N/A
NO. OF MEDIATION CASES RESOLVED	16 Cases resolved as referred	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Source: Muntinlupa City Muslim Affairs Office (MCMAO), 2017*

Another indicator is the reduction of crime, violence, and violence related deaths. The Muntinlupa CPDO stated that the city provided firearms, communication equipment, patrols, motorcycles, and other police mobiles to the PNP.

**Table 2. Crime Statistics in Muntinlupa City**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>Against Person</b>	<b>Against Property</b>	<b>Special Laws</b>	<b>Non-Index</b>
2017	249	337	527	266
2016	265	312	753	299
2015	273	438	458	812
2014	485	1147	496	620
2013	442	982	388	593

Table 3. Crime Statistics in the Barangay Level

Barangay	2015	2016	2017	Total
Tunasan	154	163	137	454
Poblacion	282	307	238	827
Putatan	239	238	195	672
Bayanan	105	147	108	360
Alabang	351	354	281	986
Ayala Alabang	90	69	81	240
Cupang	135	135	103	373
Buli	19	9	16	44
Sucacat	125	161	147	433
Total	1500	1583	1306	4389

As seen with the statistics, crime rate in Muntinlupa City has decreased from the years 2015-2017. Furthermore, from 2013 to 2017, Muntinlupa has seen a 52% decrease of reported cases on Violence Against Women and Children. This may be attributed to the SAGIP Program, or the Saklolo at Gabay para sa Ina at Pamilya, which is implemented by the Social Services Department to aide VAWC (Violence Against Women and Children) Desks. In the realms of transparency and the promotion of Rule of Law, Muntinlupa City was awarded the Seal of Good Local Governance in 2015, as well as the Good Financial Housekeeping Award in 2015. According to the Muntinlupa CPDO, the City was in financial debt of approximately Php2 Billion, prior to the incumbent mayor's term. But as of 2018, Muntinlupa was declared as debt-free. A sign of good financial management, and effective distribution of expenditures and efficient management of funds. The City Hall also posts its budget allocation and expenditures at the first floor of the executive building, with financial data available for procurement to all.

In the case of Mandaluyong City, the key informant interview was likewise from City Planning and Development Office. In 2017, the incumbent mayor of Mandaluyong City signed the Memorandum of Agreement with the DILG to implement the SDG-FACES project. This program intends to strengthen the implementation of SDGs in local governance (Philippine Information Agency, 2017). Mandaluyong City integrated SDGs in the Comprehensive Development Plan in 2015, under the previous mayor. The key aspects of focus were health, hunger, and the youth. The city has been awarded 2016 Nutrition Honor Award, and the 2016 Most Child Friendly City in the Philippines award (National Nutrition Council, 2016). The Child Friendly City award is an indicator of safety and security of the city, albeit with an emphasis on children.

Table 4. Crime Statistics in Mandaluyong City, 2014-2015

Period	INDEX CRIMES									NON-INDEX CRIMES			TOTAL CRIME VOLUME	TOTAL CRIME SOLVED	CRIME SOL'N EFF.	
	AGAINST PERSON				AGAINST PROPERTY			TOTAL INDEX	TOTAL SOLVED	SOL'N EFF.	TOTAL VOLUME	TOTAL SOLVED				SOL'N EFF.
	HDM	PHY INJ	RAPE	TOTAL	ROB	THEFT	TOTAL									
<b>2014</b>																
Jan	1	54	7	62	67	133	324	386	140	10.36	108	20	18.51	494	60	12.14
Feb	1	31	1	33	20	61	147	180	16	0.08	93	28	30.1	273	54	13.45
Mar	6	37	5	48	28	80	204	252	29	11.5	126	33	26.19	378	62	16.4
Apr	1	43	8	52	40	77	221	273	38	13.91	149	27	18.12	422	118	27.96
May		38	6	44	18	95	201	245	18	7.3	124	100	80.64	369	95	25.74
June	1	46	1	48	39	103	238	286	57	19.93	103	38	36.89	389	83	21.33
July	1	24	4	29	24	75	157	186	45	24.19	78	38	48.71	264	85	32.19
Aug	1	17	2	20	13	55	108	128	47	36.71	64	38	59.37	192	109	56.77
Sept		12	12	24	5	37	110	134	13	9.7	51	25	49.02	185	38	20.54
Oct	1	32	4	36	15	103	190	226	72	31.85	100	37	37	326	109	33.43
Nov		32	7	39	20	88	186	225	34	24	75	32	42.66	300	86	28.66
Dec		37	1	38	27	108	211	249	65	26.1	94	39	41.48	343	104	30.32
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>1035</b>	<b>2297</b>	<b>2770</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>17.83</b>	<b>1165</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>39.05</b>	<b>3935</b>	<b>983</b>	<b>24.98</b>
<b>2015</b>																
Jan		40	3	43	20	109	129	132	49	37.12	90	46	51.11	222	95	42.79
Feb	1	24	5	30	28	74	102	107	38	35.81	93	50	53.76	200	88	44
Mar	1	20	3	24	32	95	127	130	33	40.76	103	72	69.9	233	125	53.64
Apr	3	15	1	19	9	65	74	75	58	77.33	40	33	67.34	124	91	73.38
May	1	23	5	29	12	39	71	104	32	50	72	45	62.5	176	97	55.11
June		15	2	17	20	83	103	120	58	48.33	87	59	67.81	207	117	56.52
July	1	20	6	27	30	77	107	134	65	48.90	79	44	55.69	213	109	51.17
Aug	2	19	3	24	25	61	86	110	57	51.81	70	32	45.71	180	89	49.44
Sept	2	18	6	26	23	58	81	107	32	48.59	75	34	45.33	182	86	47.25
Oct		18	4	22	10	56	66	88	55	62.50	64	32	50	152	87	57.33
Nov		8	8	16	7	29	36	52	44	84.61	50	22	44	102	66	64.79
Dec	2	20	1	23	31	60	91	114	50	43.86	70	31	44.28	184	81	44.02
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>1073</b>	<b>1273</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>49.56</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>55.43</b>	<b>2175</b>	<b>1131</b>	<b>52</b>

Source: Mandaluyong City Police Station, 2015

Statistics show that the total volume of crime decreased by almost 50% from 2014 to 2015, whilst total crime solved increased by a moderate number. The Mandaluyong CPDO (2015) stated that the programs implemented by Mandaluyong City on SDG 16 were holistic, and implemented together with other programs such as education, seminars, and intervention programs. In 2018, Mandaluyong City was given the National Anti-Drug Abuse Council Performance Awards for outstanding drug-abuse programs implemented in the city. In fact, in 2016, Mandaluyong established the first community-based drug rehabilitation center, which runs a 16-week program for drug abusers in the city. This program was established the year the current mayor assumed office. The quick policy-process may be attributed to political continuity.

Mandaluyong City has also emphasized the promotion of anti-discriminatory laws and ordinances, through the establishment of the DPAD, or the Disabled Persons Affairs Division established in 1998. This division encouraged not just economic development within PWDs, but also that of social and physical stimulation through

sports and other organizational socialization (Mandaluyong Ecological Statistics 2015). As of 2014, 2,311 PWDs have registered with the DPAD, and are welcome to avail the goods and services provided by the city which targets PWDs on a more specialized manner.

Muntinlupa City and Mandaluyong City both present convincing cases of being facilitators of Sustainable Development Goals. Both Cities display virtually comparable statistics, and have implemented key programs and projects regarding Sustainable Development Goal 16. Both cities have been awarded Good Financial Housekeeping Awards. Likewise, both cities have established innovative programs and projects to promote equality, such as Mandaluyong DPAD and Muntinlupa's MAO. However, Mandaluyong City has garnered more SGLG (Seal of Good Local Governance) Awards, which is state-issued, and has crossed the boundaries of different presidencies, with four awards compared to Muntinlupa's one.

### **Demographics of the Participants**

In Muntinlupa City, 27% of the respondents lived in Barangay Alabang, followed by Poblacion and Buli. Brgy. Alabang is one of the most populous barangays in Muntinlupa, and is generally the center of Muntinlupa. In Mandaluyong City, a small majority of the respondents lived in Barangay Addition Hills with 6%, the most populous barangay in Mandaluyong City.

### **Peacefulness and Reduction of Violence-related Crimes**

As peace is a strong indicator of Sustainable Development Goal, it is imperative to determine whether or not constituencies found their localities as peaceful, as well as to identify the effectiveness of anti-violence laws in each constituency. With this, the results show that the constituencies of both local governments found their respective localities to be peaceful. Furthermore, both local governments are seen as effective enforcers of anti-violence laws. Indeed, the ecological statistics regarding crime of both local Governments have reflected the perceptions of their constituencies.

Beyond statistics and constituency perception, both cities have indeed been recognized by the Central Government as effective enforcers of peacefulness and anti-violence laws. Mandaluyong City has been awarded as the Most Child Friendly City in 2016, emphasizing their long-term commitment to peace and order (National Nutrition Council, 2016). Furthermore, in 2016, Mandaluyong established the first community-based drug rehabilitation center, which runs a 16- week program for drug abusers in

the city. This program was established the year the current mayor assumed office. The quick policy-process may be attributed to political continuity.

Meanwhile, in Muntinlupa City, it was mentioned in the interview that peace & order, although primarily handled by the Philippine National Police, was a priority in the policy-making process. Thus, as much as possible, financial and technical support is given by the local police district, such as the donation of firearms and policing vehicles. As the respondent of Mandaluyong City explained, projects may easily cross the boundaries of tenure, due to the dynastic characteristics of some officials. With the case of peace and order, this is reflected in Mandaluyong City through Ordinance No. 694, S-2018.

*ORDINANCE NO. 694, S-2018 - AN ORDINANCE FURTHER AMENDING THE MOTORCYCLE RIDING-IN-TANDEM ORDINANCE OF MANDALUYONG CITY*

Ordinance No. 694, S-2018, extends the lifespan of its predecessor, Ordinance No.550, 2-2014. These ordinances are restrictive laws that prohibit motorcycle transportation when the back-rider is a male. This is to limit the criminal incidences of thievery and robbery that occur within the city. A large number of these criminal activities were made possible due to the mobility and speed of motorcycles. Indeed, the ordinance has been proven effective as Riding in Tandem crimes have been on a decline ever since the ordinance was implemented. However, the ordinance still receives criticism from the constituents, and is relatively unpopular despite its effectiveness. In 2018, despite changes in chief executive positions, the ordinance was extended, and its 3-year lifespan was abolished. This extension of an effective, albeit unpopular, ordinance may be attributed to the dynastic characteristic of the chief executive officials.

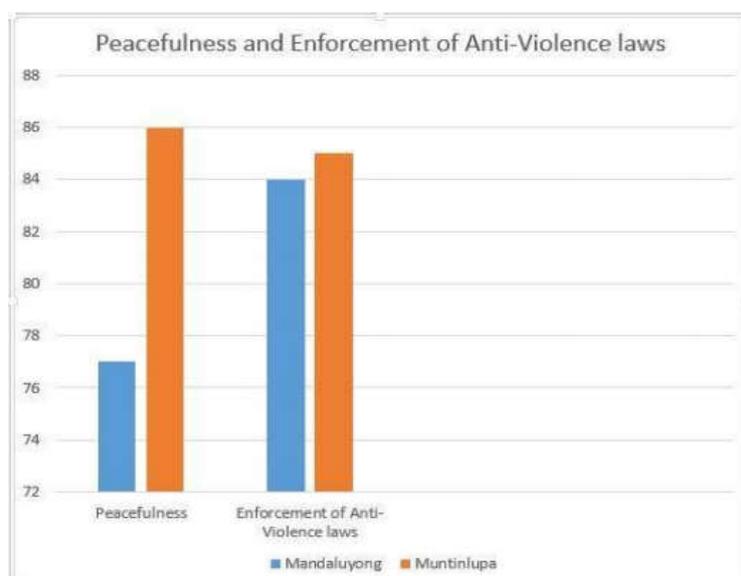


Figure 1. Perceptions on Peacefulness and the Enforcement of Anti-Violence Laws

## Constituents' Perception on Discrimination and Equal Rights

A majority of both constituencies felt that their local governments promoted equality and anti-discriminatory laws. Indeed, both local governments have their fairshare of ordinances and institutions that promote equal rights and laws that provide for the reduction of discrimination. In the case of Mandaluyong, this is exemplified through the Disabled Persons Affairs Division. Indeed, the data has revealed that approximately 2,311 PWDs have received benefits from the DPAD office as of 2014. Furthermore, through ordinance no. 698, S-2018, the city's **MANDALUYONG CITY ORDINANCE NO. 698, S-2018 ANTI-DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE (ADO) ON THE BASIS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY AND EXPRESSION (SOGIE) FOR THE PROTECTION OF LESBIANS, GAYS, BISEXUALS, TRANSGENDERS, INTERSEX, AND QUEERS (LGBTIQs) RIGHTS IN THE CITY OF MANDALUYONG**

This ordinance emphasizes the rights of the LGBTQ community and provides pivotal regulations in support of education, labor, and employment rights of members of the LGBTQ community. An example of such regulation would be the prohibition to expel or suspend students based on SOGIE or Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression. Beyond the academe, the employees may not also be removed from work due to SOGIE, nor shall applicants be rejected due to SOGIE. Furthermore, goods and services shall not be withheld from people solely based on SOGIE. Muntinlupa City on the other hand has also implemented several ordinances and laws to provide for equal rights and the reduction of discrimination. One example so far was the mentioned MAO, or the Muslims Affairs Office. The office caters to the needs and requests of the Muslim sector of Muntinlupa's population.

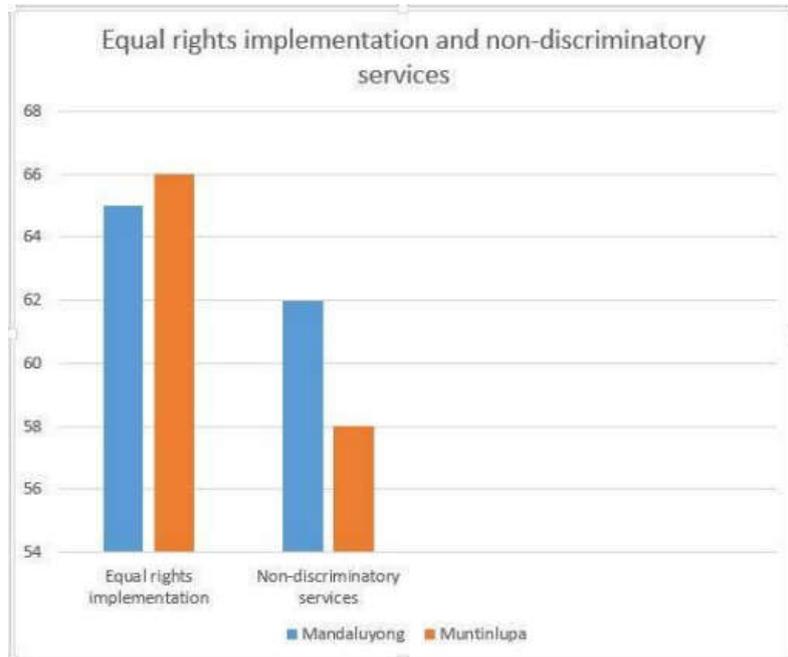


Figure 2. Perceptions on Equal Rights and non-discriminatory services

### **Corruption and Transparency**

Both Mandaluyong City and Muntinlupa City are nationally recognized as being facilitators of quality governance. Indeed, both local governments have received the Seal of Good Local Governance awards. However, in the case of Mandaluyong, the locality was awarded the said seal four consecutive times, crossing the boundaries of tenure and office terms. Whereas Muntinlupa City has only been awarded once. Thus, despite the change in leadership, the city was still able to maintain the standards of governance required by the Central Government. Furthermore, both cities have been recipients of the Good Financial Housekeeping Awards. These awards are a testament for the transparency and financial management of each city. Indeed, these awards are also reflected with the sentiments of the constituents, wherein the people perceive their respective local governments as transparent and not corrupt.

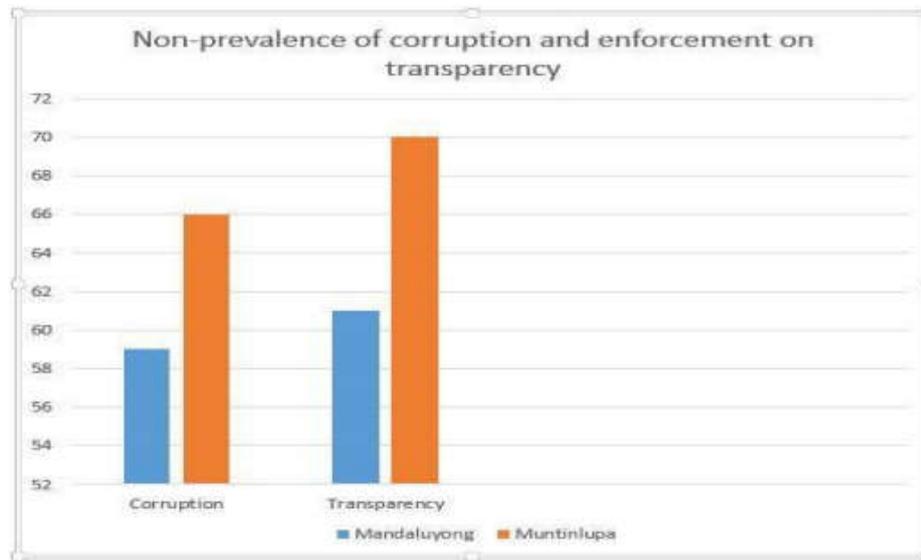


Figure 3. Perception on corruption and transparency

### Participative Governance

In terms of a participative government, both cities have involved the local development councils in the drafting and creation of the annual investment plans and city development plans. An example of the participatory process in Mandaluyong City is with the LGBTQ and PWD representation in both the City Development Council and the Youth Development Council. Their respective representatives may be able to voice their opinions and demands directly to the Sangguniang Panglungsod during the regular session. In fact, it was through LGBTQ participation in the policymaking process that Ordinance 698, S-2018, was able to become comprehensive and encompassing. Muntinlupa's City Development Council is also observed to be effective, with the case of the sector of the fishermen, wherein their demands for the rehabilitation of the Laguna Bay was immediately heard and responded to by the city government. The Muntinlupa CPDO mentioned that fisheries were a major livelihood source for Muntinlupa citizens, and under the current mayor, the city government of Muntinlupa created the Muntinlupa Fish Sanctuary, which aims to rehabilitate the Laguna De Bay as well as strengthen the ecology of the lake. 300,000 fingerlings were released in the lake in order to rejuvenate the Tilapia production. Thus, as fishermen were incorporated as stakeholders in the policymaking process, a policy was formulated for the benefit of this major group of citizens. Indeed, both constituencies have a positive perception on the involvement of the people in the policymaking process, as revealed by the survey.

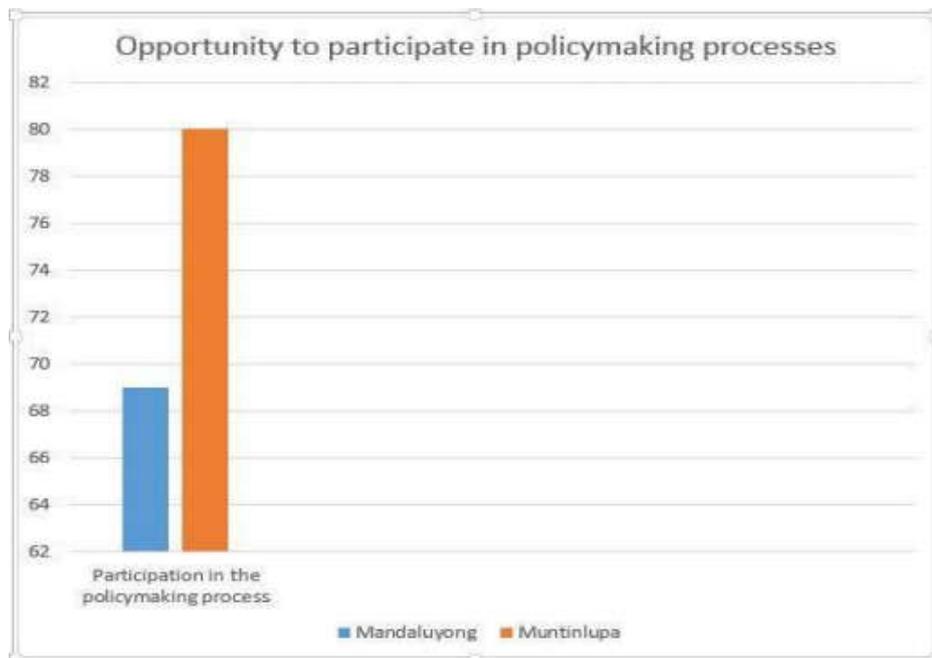


Figure 4. Perception on participation

### Synthesis of Results

Both LGUs yielded positive results which verified the data procured from the key informant interviews and the statistical data provided by the city governments. Muntinlupa City, however, is noted to have higher perception scores in participation, corruption, and transparency. Mandaluyong City has a higher perception score in terms of local businesses adhering to the rule of law. All other indicators are virtually identical. It is to be noted, however, that a large portion of Muntinlupa City respondents reside in Barangay Alabang, which may explain the uniformity of several answers, whereas in Mandaluyong City, the respondents are more spread out.

All indicators of SDG 16 as felt by the respondents of each local government unit yielded positive results, with not one indicator leading to negative perception. Thus, the data provided by the respective local governments can be deemed verified. The primary objective to be considered, however, is that the respondents of both cities have virtually identical experiences with regard to SDG 16. Although there are a few statistical differences in some indicators, both still yielded positive results and may be considered as having identical patterns. Although Muntinlupa City has a non-dynastic chief executive, its patterns of development and project implementation do not significantly differ from Mandaluyong City.

## **CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS**

The study seemed to lessen the misconceptions of political dynasties as a phenomenon in the Philippines. As the policy process of the Philippines draws closer to faulting dynasties as the cause of general underdevelopment in the Philippines, it is imperative to determine whether or not resources and energy must be expended on the endeavor to disallow political dynasties. A possible undertone of these efforts is to provide a political scapegoat for the numerous governmental failures the Philippine political system experiences. A quick glance of the number of legislators with dynastic characteristics in the Philippines provides a basic answer as to why efforts against dynasties seem superficial, as it is highly unlikely that an anti-dynasty bill is passed. However, these may be considered successful in diverting attention (Mendoza, Beja Jr, Venida, & Yap, 2012).

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