

Collaboration Between Public Sectors and Community Organizations to Inhibit the Insurgencies Occurring in the Unrest Areas in the Southernmost Provinces

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Abstract

The present study purposes to identify the consequences of collaboration between public sectors and community organizations and to study influential factors towards collaboration to inhibit insurgencies in the unrest areas in the southernmost provinces. There were sixteen key informants habituating organizations situated in both rural and urban areas that include leaders, committees, or members who are deployed as representatives of the organizations in the southernmost provinces, and ten people in a focus group. The research instrument was semi - structured interviews. It was found that three phases of collaboration between public sectors and community organizations in the southernmost provinces are: 1) pre-insurgency collaboration in conducting activities and projects due to government policies; 2) insurgent periods collaboration in coordination, following up, and communication; 3) post-insurgency, collaboration in habitation, healing, and assistance. Moreover, influential factors towards collaboration to inhibit insurgencies in the unrest areas in the southernmost provinces, e.g. trustworthiness and communication between public sectors and community organizations, participation in peace processes, community administration, identity expression, and policy appropriateness.

Keywords: *Collaboration; Inhibit insurgencies; Southernmost provinces*

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Background to the Study

The southernmost provinces have been experiencing extensive occurring violent situations since B.E. 2004. The circumstances resulted from society, the economy, racist history, and the identity of local people. It therefore led to conflict in local and national administration. It has had the ripple effect as an international problem (Nakata, 2010; Jaikaew, 2010; Cheow, 2003; Rabasa and Chalk, 2012; Smith, 2004). Insurgencies constantly appear due to the commitment of the terrorists who have a different ideology from the government, along with the conflict and rage pertaining to benefit the pressure groups. Moreover, religious dissension seems far more severe, which leads to hindering the population to enhance their quality of life, and the interference from other countries. Besides, there are other factors provoking worse situations; resulted from the higher support and power of terrorism. The circumstances surrounding the recently unrest that occurred in the southernmost provinces indicate that the government policy to suppress the violence is not yet successful. Consequently, lives and possessions of the local people are insecure, which causes instability of the democratic government to administer the country peacefully. The government constantly make every effort to solve the problems by forming administration systems for specific areas, and making concession with the terrorist leaders. The public sectors hold the strategies bestowed by the King to solve the problems through "Understand, Approach, and Develop," which is in accordance with Chaijaroenwatana, Kajornboon, Siammai and Jongrungrrote (2008). They addressed that government has been trying to solve the problem by developing policies, strategies, and measures that allow pertinent organizations to engage in the conflict resolution. The government also established institutions and ad hoc agencies in B.E. 2000; namely Southern Border Provinces Administration Centre (SBPAC), and Strategy Administration for Peace in Southern Border Provinces Centre. They have to deal with unsolved problems. According to the Budget Policy and Planning Office, National Police Agency (n.d.), the insurgency in the southernmost provinces is not such an isolated problem that cannot be solved by a single unit because the problem is complex that is far different from others. The problem involves areas, societies, cultures, and conflict over religious identities.

The concept of collaboration is a process to stimulate the organizations to work together by having common goals to enhance the potentials of single organizations. It can probably difficult to achieve. Moreover, building collaboration include seeking alternatives to solve problems under limitations, for instance body of knowledge, budget, competition and so forth. (Agranoff and McGuire, 2003) The southernmost provinces are diverse in terms of race and culture, which lead to conflict pertaining to religions, races, languages, and historic comprehension of terrorists to use as an excuse to incite people to violate the communities. This is a result of misconduct of the officers, poverty, discriminatory justice, and competing for resources from powerful outsiders which contribute to conflicts and sedition. These circumstances have led to breaking point tension. (Manyin, Chanlett-Avery, Croin, Niksch and Vaughn, 2004; Smith, 2004; Croissant, 2005; Keet, 2005; Vaughn, Chanlett, Dolven, Manyin, Martin and Niksch, 2009; Connor, 2009) It jeopardizes the collaboration between the people, community

organizations, societies, and the public sectors. Likely, McGuire (2006) identified that building collaboration helps the government to solve problems encountered which are unsolved effectively such as poverty, resource exploitation, etc. Then, the mechanism to solve this problem has to be different and flexible to expedite the collaboration establishment among them.

The process of Gaining Collaboration comprises of Six Perspectives

1. Forging initial agreement is an informal consensus related to elements of missions and collaborative process. The benevolence is that it is transparent.
2. Building leadership contributes to a various type of leaders: formal and informal. There are two types of leaders. Firstly, sponsors are considered as the most powerful people, who hold the authority and are capable of accessing resources, though they are not practically involved in the day-to-day work. The second type of supporters are the so-called "champions," who are determine to obtain collaboration by employing skills to strive for the goals.
3. Building legitimacy is necessary to draw internal and external resource support to build up a network. This includes trustworthiness amongst members by communicating within the network without restrain.
4. Building trust contributes to successful cooperation by linking people to work together and to gain trust by exchanging information, knowledge, and competency.
5. Managing conflicts take place when individuals of a group have differences in goals and expectations of partnerships. Conflict management is an integral part to establish collaboration and to equalize resources to all stakeholders. Planning to collaborate in relation to concepts, consultancy, and formal planning, by focusing on clear missions, goals, and objectives. (Bryson, Crosby and Stone, 2006) Hence, the present study shed light on the guidance to shape the policy to gain collaboration between public sectors and community organizations to inhibit the insurgencies in the southernmost provinces. This piqued the interests on investigation of suppressing the violence in the southernmost provinces.

Research Objectives

The research focuses on the study of collaboration between public sectors and community organizations in the southernmost provinces.

- i. To study collaborative conditions between public sectors and community organizations to inhibit the insurgencies in the southernmost provinces.
- ii. To investigate influential factors affecting collaborative conditions between public sectors and community organizations to inhibit the insurgencies in the southernmost provinces.

Literature Review

Dubrin and Ireland (1993) briefly defined collaboration as when two or more persons or organizations have a relationship and work together to achieve either the same goal or different goals by sharing resources, establishing the same guidelines and practices,

being responsible to their performances and/or gaining advantages. The common practice must underlie the agreement and independence. According to the definition from New Webster's Dictionary of the English Language (Webster, 1985), Cooperation means the act of operating together or expressing for a mutual benefit. Coombs (1981) explained that "collaboration" and "cooperation" should be given a distinctive definition because "collaboration" conveys a broader and more profound meaning than "cooperation". "Collaboration" obviously infers goal setting and operating together.

Materials and Methods

This is qualitative research with studies in the unrest areas such as Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat and four other districts in Songkhla. (Tepa, Saba Yoi, and Natawi). The sixteen key informants were selected from community organizations located in both urban and rural areas namely leaders, committees, or members who are deployed as representatives of the organizations. Moreover, ten participants took part in the focus group. The research instrument was semi-structured interviews. The content used was analyzed and examined by people who is involved in the incidences that the research was carried out for example scholars, people, government officers, community organizations and societies

Result

The consequences of the collaboration between public sectors and community organizations to inhibit the insurgencies, revealed the following information:

The Information Obtained by in-depth Interview

- i. The collaboration as precursor to insurgencies should be prepared by giving knowledge, building comprehension pertaining to races, doctrines, history, rights and liberties, equalities, opportunities, and fairness.
- ii. The collaboration during the insurgencies should include coordination, following up, communication, discussion, and establishing comprehension by attempting to build impressions to gain collaboration for jointly suppressing the insurgencies.
- iii. The collaboration after the insurgencies composes of rendering rehabilitation, healing, assistance, security of lives and possessions. Public sectors should have associations with community organizations to collaboratively inhibit the insurgencies with persistence and determination, because fairness is the results of trustworthiness for teamwork.

Influential factors towards collaboration between public sectors and community organizations to inhibit the insurgencies were exploited

A focus group was utilized to study the dominating collaboration factors. The study found successful factors to solve problems in the southernmost provinces to inhibit the insurgencies in terms of quality and quantity. In order to reduce the insurgencies and their causes in these areas, workable measures must be obtained by public sectors, community organizations, and societies. They should provide surveillance in dangerous

spots and pressurize the opposition by: 1) Building collaboration from trustworthiness between community organizations and public sectors. The confidence of the community organizations towards the public sectors leads to effective teamwork. 2) Communication between community organizations and public sectors by using disruptive technology to obtain new information between them. 3) Participation in the peace processes to avenue the collaboration in discussion stages that act as guidance for solving the problems. 4) Community administrations constitute collaboration between them to allocate duties and working roles in alignment with public sectors. 5) Identity expression to build collaboration by means of respect and acceptance of religion differences to work together in both public sectors and community organizations, and 6) Policies appropriateness.

Conclusion

The insurgencies in the southernmost provinces have a dim and distant past. The antecedents of the insurgencies comprised of historic diversity pertaining to races, religions, cultures, languages, identities between Siam and Kerajaan Patani. They have been treated unfairly because of their identity. The policies and operations of the officers impeded Islamic lifestyles. This led the terrorists to resort to violent actions to express their opposition. Therefore, by a combined attempt to solve the problems in the areas by gaining collaboration from the people, community organizations, societies, and government organizations in the local areas is to create stable and peaceful areas together. Teamwork relies on knowledge, comprehension, social immunization, coordination, communication, rehabilitation and healing. The success of rendering assistance to the victims of the incidences, and decreasing the violence, stem from trustworthiness and communications between public sectors and community organizations, identity expression, and policy appropriateness.

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