

Eyes on the Truth: Assessing the Use of the Body-Worn Cameras in South Cotabato Provincial Police Office

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Abstract:- The use of body-worn cameras by law enforcement has become increasingly prevalent in recent years, with the aim of enhancing accountability, improving police-community relations, and providing valuable evidence for investigations. This study assessed the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices by South Cotabato Provincial Police Office personnel. A mixed-methods approach was employed, combining quantitative data analysis and qualitative interviews with selected officers in the South Cotabato Provincial Police Office. The findings revealed that the South Cotabato Provincial Police Office had fully implemented the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices in the execution of warrants and other planned police operations. There are only other police units and police personnel doing routine police activities who do not wear body-worn cameras or alternative recording devices. The PNP personnel also highly complied with the rules on the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices during encounters with a suspect or accused, and their rights were highly observed by the South Cotabato Provincial Police Office. There is a need to provide more budget in the PNP organization to equip all police personnel in the South Cotabato Police Provincial Office with body-worn cameras intended for overt and covert operations. This research study made several contributions to the existing body of knowledge on the use of body-worn cameras by law enforcement agencies in the Philippines. It provides empirical evidence on the implementation and compliance of the South Cotabato Provincial Police personnel, offering valuable insights into the perspectives of police officers. By adopting a mixed-methods approach, the research captured a comprehensive understanding of the challenges, benefits, and opportunities associated with the deployment of this technology in a specific regional setting. The research findings also had direct policy implications, highlighting the need to align the policies of agencies and branches of government, comprehensive training programs, robust data management protocols, and the allocation of a bigger budget for law enforcement programs. Finally, this research adds to the limited body of literature on the use of body-worn cameras in developing countries,

where the implementation and evaluation of such technologies may face distinct challenges and opportunities compared to more established contexts. The insights and lessons learned from the South Cotabato Provincial Police Office case study can inform future research and the global discourse on the role of technology in policing and public safety.

Keywords:- *Eyes on the Truth, Assessing, Body-Worn Cameras, Alternative Recording Devices, South Cotabato Provincial Police Office.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The use of body-worn cameras has gained significant attention in recent years, particularly in law enforcement agencies worldwide. These cameras have been touted for their potential to enhance transparency, accountability, and the overall effectiveness of police work. In the context of the South Cotabato Police Provincial Office (SCPPPO) in the Philippines, however, the utilization and impact of body-worn cameras remain relatively unexplored.

This study aims to assess the use of body-worn cameras in the South Cotabato Police Provincial Office, specifically by establishing the existing gap in their implementation and highlighting the need to conduct a comprehensive examination. By delving into the current practices, challenges, and perceptions surrounding the adoption of body-worn cameras within this particular police office, valuable insights can be gained regarding their potential benefits and limitations.

Identifying the specific gap within the South Cotabato Police Provincial Office's utilization of body-worn cameras is crucial, as it will serve as the foundation for further investigation. Additionally, by identifying the need to conduct this study, the research aims to contribute to the literature on body-worn cameras' effectiveness in enhancing police operations and public trust.

This research employed a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative interviews and surveys that gathered data from SCCPO officers, supervisors, and PNP personnel. The findings will be instrumental in guiding policy recommendations, training initiatives, and enhancing the overall understanding of the benefits and challenges associated with body-worn cameras in the South Cotabato Police Provincial Office and similar law enforcement contexts.

By addressing the gap in knowledge and establishing the need to study the use of body-worn cameras in the South Cotabato Police Provincial Office, this research aims to make a meaningful contribution to the field of law enforcement technology and promote evidence-based decision-making for improved policing practices.

II. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This study incorporates three main theories: social control theory, symbolic interactionism, and routine activity theory. Social Control Theory posits that the use of body-worn cameras can act as a mechanism of formal social control, fostering accountability and transparency within the police force. By wearing body cameras and alternative recording devices, police personnel are constantly monitored, which is expected to align their behavior with professional standards and ethical conduct. This theory suggests that body-worn cameras have the potential to deter misconduct and abuse of power, ultimately improving the overall performance and public trust in the South Cotabato Police Provincial Office.

Symbolic Interactionism offers insights into how the presence of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices influences the social interactions between police officers and the community. This theory explores how both parties interpret and respond to the technological surveillance of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices, shaping their behavior and building trust or creating conflicts. Through examining the symbolic meanings attached to the use of body-worn cameras, this theory helps understand the impact of surveillance on the dynamics of police-community interactions in South Cotabato.

Routine Activity Theory complements the analysis by identifying the preventive effects of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices on criminal activities. This theory emphasizes the importance of capable guardianship in deterring criminal events. By constantly monitoring police activities,

body cameras act as capable guardians, potentially deterring criminals by reducing suitable targets and motivations for criminal behaviors. By applying this theory, the research can examine whether the presence of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices in the South Cotabato Provincial Office enhances public safety and reduces crime rates.

III. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The figure below describes the conceptual framework of the study, wherein the independent variable is the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices. The use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices is believed to be an important tool in enhancing transparency, accountability, improved evidence collection, and building trust and community relations. The researcher wants to find out the influence and implementation of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices on policing practices in terms of the execution of warrants, arrests, and other police operations by police personnel in the South Cotabato Provincial Police Office. The dependent variables of the study are the policing practices of police personnel in South Cotabato and the compliance of South Cotabato Police Provincial Office personnel. Policing practices refer to the various methods, strategies, and approaches used by law enforcement agencies and officers to maintain public order, enforce laws, and ensure the safety and security of communities. One of the policing practices is the execution of warrants, where there is a need to have a warrant of arrest for a person who is accused of a crime and a search warrant for a house, building, or structure believed to have kept contraband. There are also instances where warrantless arrests are made in the case of *in flagrante delicto*, hot pursuit, or when a person is an escapee from a detention cell or jail, under custodial investigation, awaiting his trial, or serving his sentence, following Rule 113, Section 5 of the Rules of Court. The researcher wants to find out the level of compliance of South Cotabato Police Provincial Office personnel on the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices and whether the rights of the suspect or accused were observed during encounters or interactions by law enforcement officers. Lastly, the researcher also wants to find out the compliance of the South Cotabato Provincial Police personnel with the policy and guidelines on the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices in safeguarding the privacy rights of the public and the constitutional rights of the suspect(s) and the accused.

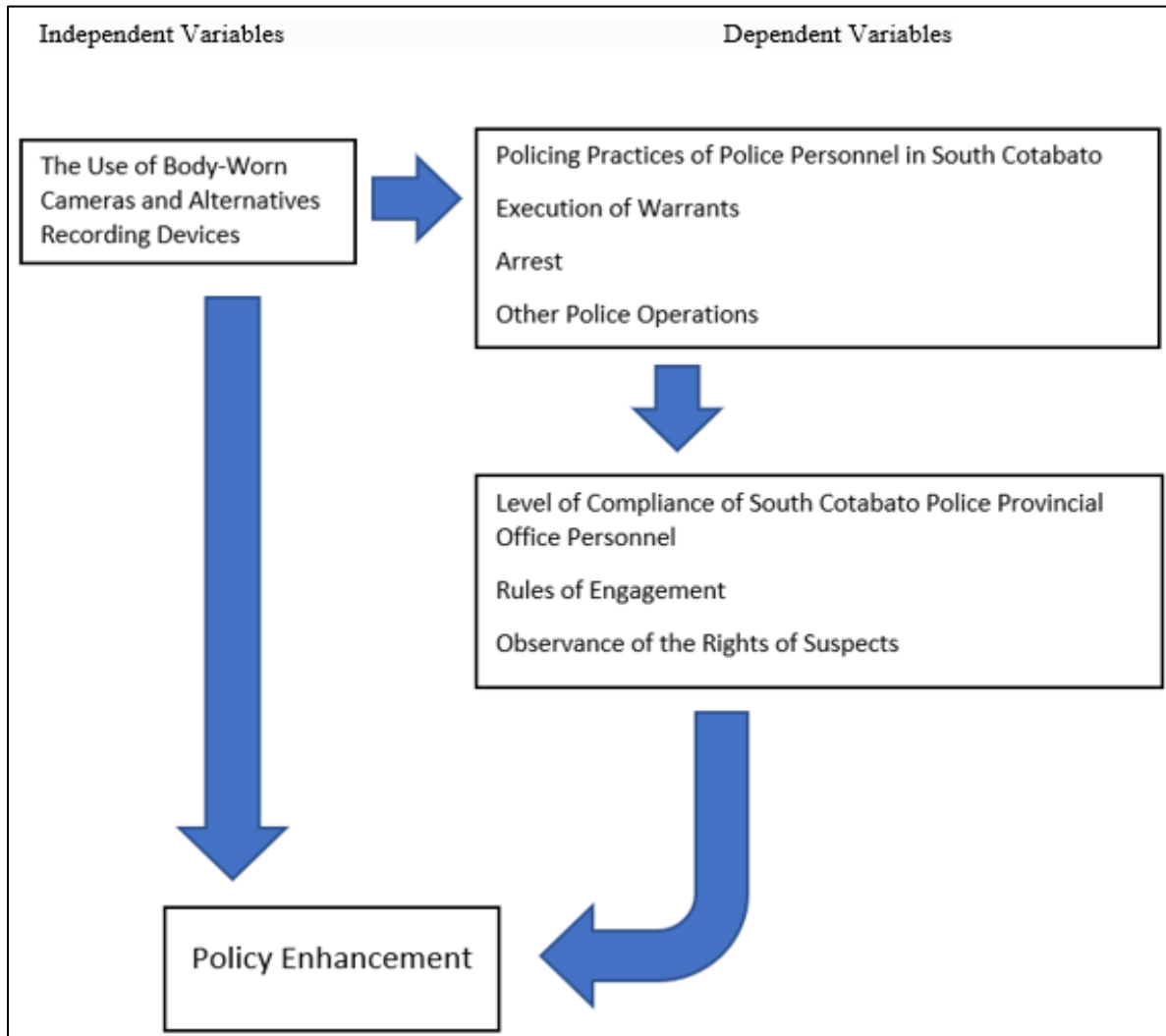


Fig 1 Policy Enhancement

IV. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Our purpose is to assess the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices by police personnel in the South Cotabato Police Provincial Office.

➤ *South Cotabato Police Provincial Office*

The study aims to contribute to the existing knowledge and understanding of the role that body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices play in law enforcement agencies. This study will shed light on the effectiveness and impact of body-worn cameras in enhancing police operations, accountability, and public trust. Secondly, as South Cotabato is a region with its own unique challenges and security concerns, the research will assess the specific context of this area to determine the potential benefits and drawbacks of implementing body-worn cameras. This study will help in developing region-specific policies and guidelines for the usage of body-worn cameras, ensuring versatile and tailored

➤ *Law Enforcement Agencies.*

This study holds significant importance for law enforcement agencies as it offers insights into the effectiveness of body-worn cameras in promoting accountability, transparency, and strengthening community relationships. The findings can inform evidence-based policies and guidelines, enhance officer training and professionalism, and contribute to the continual improvement of law enforcement practices.

➤ *Human Rights.*

This study is significant for human rights as it evaluates the impact of body-worn cameras on the protection and preservation of human rights. The findings can provide evidence on whether these cameras effectively reduce misconduct, enhance accountability, and safeguard the rights of both citizens and police officers, contributing to a more just and rights-focused law enforcement approach.

➤ *Policy-Makers.*

This study is significant to policymakers as it can provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of body-worn cameras in law enforcement. The findings can guide policy decisions regarding the implementation and usage of these devices, promoting increased accountability, transparency, and trust between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. This research can inform evidence-based policies that enhance police practices, protect human rights, and strengthen the overall effectiveness of law enforcement policies and procedures.

➤ *Community.*

This study holds significant importance to the community as it examines the impact of body-worn cameras on the relationship between police personnel and community members. The findings can contribute to building trust, fostering transparency, and enhancing communication between the police and the community. This research can empower community members by providing them with valuable insights into the impact of these cameras on accountability, enhancing their sense of safety and security.

➤ *Future Researcher.*

This study holds great significance for future researchers interested in the topic. It provides a foundation of knowledge for understanding the impact of body-worn cameras on law enforcement practices, accountability, and community relationships. The findings of this study can serve as a starting point for future research, allowing future researchers to build upon the existing body of knowledge, explore new perspectives, and investigate additional factors that may influence the effectiveness of body-worn cameras. This study can guide future researchers in designing more comprehensive studies, contributing to the field's understanding of the benefits and challenges associated with the use of body-worn cameras in law enforcement agencies.

➤ *Researcher*

This study holds significant importance to the researcher as it provides an opportunity to contribute to knowledge and understanding in the field. Through this research, the researcher can explore and analyze the effectiveness and implications of body-worn cameras in law enforcement, enriching the existing literature. The findings can also lead to potential recommendations and solutions, allowing the researcher to positively impact policy-making, law enforcement practices, and community relationships. Additionally, the study can enhance the researcher's expertise in the areas of police accountability, transparency, and human rights, serving as a valuable foundation for future researchers.

Generally, this study intends to assess the use of body-worn cameras in the South Cotabato Police Provincial Office. The specific objectives of this study are the following:

- To determine the level of implementation of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices in the policing practices of police personnel in South Cotabato in terms of execution of warrants, arrest, and other police operations
- To evaluate the level of compliance of South Cotabato PPO personnel with the use of body worn cameras and alternative recording devices in terms of rules of engagement and observance of the rights of the suspects?
- To evaluate the challenges encountered in the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices by the South Cotabato PPO personnel?
- To propose policy enhancement based on the findings of the study.

V. METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents the procedure and methodology being used by the researchers in conducting the study. Several activities in the plan included the following: research design, research locale, research subject, the population of the study, scope and limitations of the study, ethical considerations, research instrument, data gathering procedures, statistical treatment of the data, and dissemination of the research outcome.

➤ *Research Design*

The researcher used qualitative and quantitative approaches in gathering data. The first approach conducted by the researcher was the qualitative approach, which involved interviews, observations, or focus groups with the respondents. After the qualitative phase, the researcher used a quantitative approach through surveys and other quantitative methods to test or confirm the hypothesis derived from the qualitative phase. Then the researcher compared the results to validate and explain the other data. This research used a mixed method because this is the most suitable means of assessing the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices. Descriptive methods allowed the researcher to document various aspects such as the frequency of camera usage, situations where cameras and alternative recording devices are typically activated, challenges encountered, and attitudes towards the technology. This detailed documentation was crucial for a comprehensive assessment. The descriptive design has also provided insights for future actions. The study has provided valuable insights and information to the South Cotabato Police Provincial Office. The findings have highlighted strengths and weaknesses in the current use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices, identified training needs, and suggested policy improvements. These insights can inform future actions and decision-making to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of body-worn cameras and alternative recording device usage, potentially improving accountability and transparency within the police force.

➤ *Research Method*

This research used qualitative and quantitative approaches to gathering data. Qualitative methods such as interviews or focus groups have provided insights into the subjective experiences, perceptions, and attitudes of police personnel toward body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices. Qualitative data has offered a rich and nuanced understanding of the dynamics and complexities surrounding the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices. Quantitative methods, such as surveys or structured observations, have provided numerical data on various aspects of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices. This included the frequency and duration of camera usage, compliance with activation protocols, and the impact on key performance indicators. Qualitative and quantitative data have allowed for statistical analysis, enabling the researcher to identify patterns, trends, and potential correlations that have helped make more generalizable conclusions. Integrating qualitative and quantitative methods has allowed for triangulation, which enhances the credibility and validity of the research. By combining the two, the researcher had cross-validated findings and ensured a more robust and comprehensive analysis.

➤ *Population of The Study*

The population of this study has included all police personnel working within the South Cotabato Police Provincial Office who are required to and currently utilize body-worn cameras or alternative recording devices during their official duties. The South Cotabato Provincial Police Office is composed of 14 units with eleven police stations, two units of the Provincial Mobile Force Company, and one unit in the SCPPO in charge of the serving of warrants for highly sensationalized cases and highly organized criminals. The SCPPO had a population of 1294 uniformed police personnel distributed among the 14 units. The researcher took a sample size of 308 uniformed personnel, with 22 respondents for every unit of the South Cotabato Police Provincial Office.

➤ *Locale of The Study*

The locale of this study was the South Cotabato Police Provincial Office, situated in Region 12, where the research was conducted to assess the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices among the police personnel in that specific setting.

➤ *Scope and Limitation of the Study*

The scope of this study was to assess the current use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices among police personnel in the South Cotabato Police Provincial Office. The study has aimed to examine the implementation, challenges, benefits, attitudes, and compliance related to these technologies within the specified location.

Several limitations have been considered in this study. Firstly, the research was solely focused on the South Cotabato

Police Provincial Office, and the findings may not be representative of other police departments or regions. Secondly, data has been collected through self-report surveys and interviews, which may be subject to response bias. Additionally, the study did not explore the perspectives of the general public or specific communities. Finally, the study did not assess the long-term effects or changes in policy that may occur after the data collection period.

➤ *Data Gathering Tool/S*

For this study, a combination of research instruments was utilized to gather data. Firstly, a survey questionnaire was developed and administered to police personnel within the South Cotabato Police Provincial Office. The questionnaire included items that assessed the frequency of camera usage, perceptions of effectiveness, challenges encountered, and attitudes toward body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices. The survey questionnaire was designed based on existing literature and prior studies related to this topic.

In addition to the survey, qualitative research instruments were employed to gather more in-depth insights. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with selected participants that allowed open-ended discussions about their experiences, training, concerns, and suggestions regarding the use of these technologies. The interviews had been audio-video recorded to ensure accurate capture of responses, and the data was transcribed and analyzed thematically.

These two research instruments—the survey questionnaire and semi-structured interviews—complemented each other in providing a comprehensive understanding of the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices among police personnel in the specified locale. The survey data has allowed for quantitative analysis, while the interviews have provided qualitative insights and personal perspectives.

The contents of the research tool, including the survey questionnaire and interview guide, were developed based on multiple sources. Firstly, a thorough review of relevant literature on body-worn cameras, alternative recording devices, and their usage in law enforcement has been conducted. This literature review provided a foundation of knowledge and helped identify key variables, constructs, and measures that were included in the research tool.

Additionally, existing validated scales and measurement tools related to perceptions, attitudes, and challenges of body-worn cameras and similar technologies in law enforcement have been considered. These established instruments had been carefully reviewed, adopted, and modified to suit the specific context and objectives of the study.

The researcher had sought input from experts in the fields of body-worn cameras, law enforcement, and research methodology. Experts had reviewed the research tool for

content validity, ensuring that the items accurately captured the constructs being investigated. They had provided feedback on the clarity, relevance, and appropriateness of each item.

➤ *Data Gathering Procedure*

In this study, a mixed-methods approach was employed to gather data on the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices among police personnel in the South Cotabato Police Provincial Office. The data-gathering procedure involved two main methods: a survey questionnaire and semi-structured interviews.

Firstly, the survey questionnaire was administered to a representative sample of police personnel within the South Cotabato Police Provincial Office. The survey was personally distributed in paper format, based on participants's preferences and logistical considerations. The questionnaire included a series of closed-ended and Likert-scale items to assess various aspects, including frequency of camera usage, perceptions of effectiveness, and attitudes towards the technology. Participants were asked to respond to each item based on their experiences and opinions. The survey data was collected anonymously to ensure confidentiality.

Secondly, semi-structured interviews were conducted with a subset of the survey respondents who were selected to participate in more in-depth discussions. The interviews were audio-video recorded with participants' consent for accurate capture of responses. The interview data was transcribed and analyzed thematically, and key themes, patterns, and insights were extracted.

Data gathering was conducted over a specified period and allowed participants sufficient time to respond to the survey and schedule interviews about their participation. Regular follow-up reminders and communications were provided and encouraged their participation and engagement.

With the implemented data gathering procedure, the study aimed to collect comprehensive quantitative and qualitative data that provided insights into the current use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices among police

personnel in the South Cotabato Police Provincial Office.

➤ *Treatment of The Data*

The treatment of the data in this research involved several key steps and involved analyzing and interpreting the gathered information. Both quantitative and qualitative data have been treated separately, and distinct methods have been employed for each type.

For the quantitative data obtained from the survey questionnaire, statistical analysis has been conducted. The responses were coded and entered into a statistical software package for analysis. Descriptive statistics, such as weighted means, were calculated to summarize the data. The quantitative analysis enabled the identification of patterns, trends, and statistical significance related to the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices among police personnel in South Cotabato.

For the qualitative data collected from the semi-structured interviews, a thematic analysis approach was employed. The interview transcripts were carefully examined and identified recurring themes, patterns, and perspectives related to the use of these technologies. The data was coded and organized into meaningful categories or themes. Relationships between the themes have been explored, and representative quotes or excerpts have been selected to support and illustrate the identified themes. The qualitative analysis provided a deeper understanding of the experiences, perceptions, and attitudes of police personnel toward body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices.

A Likert scale is a psychometric scale commonly involved in research that employs questionnaires. All items are assumed to be replications of each other, or, in other words, items are considered to be parallel instruments. The five-point Likert scale is as follows:

Assessment of the level of implementation of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices in the policing practices of police personnel in the South Cotabato Police Provincial Office:

Rating	Mean Range	Verbal Description
5	4.20-5.00	Not Implemented
4	3.40-4.19	Partially Implemented
3	2.60-3.39	Moderately Implemented
2	1.80-2.59	Significantly Implemented
1	1.00-1.79	Fully implemented

In the assessment of the level of compliance of South Cotabato Provincial Police Office personnel on the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices:

Rating	Mean Range	Verbal Description
3	2.34-3.00	Low Compliance
2	1.67-2.33	Moderate Compliance
1	1.00-1.66	High Compliance

➤ *Ethical Considerations*

When the study was conducted assessing the use of body-worn cameras in the South Cotabato Provincial Police Office, several considerations were addressed. These included issues of privacy and consent, transparency and accountability, equity and non-discrimination, data security and integrity, procedural justice and community engagement, evaluation, and continuous improvement.

The researcher obtained the consent of the South Cotabato PPO personnel as respondents, and the results of the surveys and interviews were treated with confidentiality.

The research process and the use of body-worn cameras should be transparent to the public. Researchers must communicate the purpose, benefits, and limitations of the technology to the community (Goetschel & Peha, 2017). Mechanisms for oversight and accountability, such as regular audits and community feedback, should be implemented to prevent the misuse or abuse of the technology (Patel et al., 2020).

The potential impact of body-worn cameras on vulnerable or marginalized communities must be assessed, and safeguards must be developed to prevent the technology from exacerbating existing biases or discrimination (Braga et al., 2018).

Robust data security measures must be in place to protect the recorded data from unauthorized access, tampering, or misuse. Clear protocols for the chain of custody and handling of the recorded data should be established to ensure its integrity and reliability as evidence (Patel et al., 2020).

A comprehensive evaluation of the use of body-worn cameras, including the assessment of their impact on police-community relations, officer behavior, and overall public safety, should be used to inform policy decisions and guide the continuous improvement of the program, ensuring that it remains responsive to the needs and concerns of the community (Goetschel & Peha, 2017).

➤ *Dissemination of The Research Outcome*

The findings from this study on the use of body-worn cameras by the South Cotabato Provincial Police Office personnel will be disseminated through various channels to ensure the widest possible reach and impact.

Academic Publications and Conferences: The researcher plans to submit the study for publication in a peer-reviewed journal focused on policing, criminal justice, or public administration. Potential target journals include the Philippine Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice and the Philippine Journal of Public Administration, a peer-reviewed journal focused on public administration and policy in the Philippines.

Policy Briefs and Reports: Concise policy briefs and executive summaries of the research will be developed and disseminated to local and regional government agencies, police departments, and community organizations. These documents will highlight the key findings, implications, and recommendations from the study in a clear and accessible format. The researcher will also work with the South Cotabato Provincial Police Office to produce a comprehensive report on the use of body-worn cameras, which can be shared with relevant stakeholders.

VI. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the findings and analysis of both qualitative and quantitative data collected in the study “Eyes on the Truth: Assessing the Use of Body-Worn Cameras and Alternative Recording Devices in the South Cotabato Provincial Police Office. The research aimed to evaluate the implementation, process compliance, challenges encountered, and policy enhancements for the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices.

A. Level of Implementation of Body-Worn Cameras and Alternative Recording Devices On Policing Practices of Police Personnel in South Cotabato In Terms Of Execution Of Warrants

Table 1. presents the mean level of implementation among South Cotabato Police Provincial Office personnel regarding the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices in terms of the execution of warrants. The mean levels were calculated based on data collected from law enforcers using a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 indicating high implementation and 5 indicating low implementation.

In Table 1. particularly, the law enforcement officer uses alternative recording devices in the absence of body-worn cameras during the execution of the search warrant, and the law enforcement officer checks the functionality of the body-worn cameras and alternative devices before the execution of the search warrant, which had a mean of 1.3 and gained the highest rank. Next is the warrant officer the suspect that the arrest is being recorded and that the footage may be used against him or even against the law enforcer, the law enforcement officer use body-worn cameras during the execution of search warrant, the immediate supervisor of an operating law enforcement officers checked the wearing and functionality of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices before the execution of search warrant, the recordings in the serving of warrant were utilized in evidence in case the suspects resist the arrest or the conduct of search of a house, building or an area, the recordings in the serving of warrant can be availed by an investigating agencies/unit where alleged violations of human rights are committed by the police operatives, the recordings from body-worn cameras or alternative recording devices were downloaded by the data custodian within 24 hours from the time of their recording, the suspect or his/her counsel is present during the downloading of the data prior to safekeeping by the data custodian and the data downloaded is encrypted by the data custodian to preserve its integrity had a mean of 1.4. In addition, the warrant officer use body-worn cameras during the execution of warrant of arrest, the warrant officer checked the functionality of the body-worn cameras and alternative devices before the execution of warrant of arrest, the law enforcement officer informed the owner, family members and members of the community present that the search of the building or house is being recorded, the law enforcement officers were given sanctions if they fail to wear body-worn cameras or use alternative recording devices during the execution of warrant, the law enforcement officer activated the body worn-cameras or alternative recording devices during the search until its completion and while leaving the premises and back to the Police station, the recordings were immediately turnover to the evidence custodian for safekeeping and proper disposition after the execution of warrant, and all recordings from body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices were stored in an

external media storage device and simultaneously deposited in a sealed package with the issuing court had a mean of 1.5. Furthermore, the warrant officer uses alternative recording devices in the absence of body-worn cameras in the execution of a warrant of arrest; the law enforcement officer wears the body cameras in a conspicuous location and in a manner that maximizes the ability to record; and the immediate supervisor of an operating law enforcement officer checks the wearing and functionality of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices before the execution of a warrant of arrest. The warrant officer uses alternative recording devices in the absence of body-worn cameras in the execution of a warrant of arrest. The warrant officer uses alternative recording devices in the absence of body-worn cameras in the execution of a warrant of arrest, which had a mean of 1.6 and gained the lowest rank.

Based on the findings of the study, the law enforcement officer used alternative recording devices in the absence of body-worn cameras during the execution of the search warrant, and the law enforcement officer checked the functionality of the body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices before the execution of the search warrant. This implies that the operating elements complied with the policies and guidelines issued by the Supreme Court and the PNP memorandum circular to use alternative recording devices in the absence of body-worn cameras. It also implies that the operating elements are not remiss in their responsibility to ensure the proper recording of events during the serving of search warrants. This means that the PNP personnel understood the importance of the video footage during the execution of warrants, which will serve as strong evidence against false accusations of planting evidence by PNP operatives by the suspects. Body-worn cameras can significantly reduce the filing of unfounded complaints against police officers. When cameras are present, citizens are less likely to make false accusations or exaggerated claims about officer misconduct, as their interactions are being recorded (Hedberg et al., 2017). While the warrant officer uses alternative recording devices in the absence of body-worn cameras in the execution of a warrant of arrest, the law enforcement officer wears the body cameras in conspicuous locations and in a manner that maximizes the ability to record, and the immediate supervisor of an operating law enforcement officer checked the wearing and functionality of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices before the execution of a warrant of arrest and got the lowest mean. This implies that the wearing of body-worn cameras in some police operations, like buy-bust operations and other clandestine operations, was discouraged to ensure the arrest of a suspect in the act of committing a crime. It also implies that there is no need to check the functionality of the body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices since the police officer involved in the buy-bust operation does not need to wear a BWC or alternative recording devices. This means that there is a need to acquire body-worn cameras intended for clandestine operations that are not visible and detachable to ensure the successful arrest and prosecution of suspects while providing complete video footage

of the encounters and interactions between the police operatives and lawless elements. The study found that the use of body-worn cameras led to a 37% increase in the number of arrests made by officers wearing the cameras compared to officers

without technology (Katz et al., 2015). The research showed that cases with body-worn camera evidence were more likely to result in a charge, prosecution, and conviction of the suspect compared to cases without video evidence (Owens et al., 2014).

Table 1. Level of Implementation Among South Cotabato Police Provincial Office Personnel Regarding the Use of Body-Worn Cameras and Alternative Recording Devices in Terms of the Execution of Warrants

Execution of warrants	Weighted mean	Verbal description
The law enforcement officer use alternative recording devices in the absence of body-worn cameras during the execution of search warrant	1.3	Fully Implemented
The law enforcement officer checked the functionality of the body-worn cameras and alternative devices before the execution of the search warrant.	1.3	Fully Implemented
The immediate supervisor of an operating law enforcement officers checked the wearing and functionality of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices before the execution of search warrant.	1.4	Fully Implemented
The recordings in the serving of warrant were utilized in evidence in case the suspects resist the arrest or the conduct of search of a house, building or an area.	1.4	Fully Implemented
The warrant officer informed the suspect that the arrest is being recorded and that the footage may be used against him or even against the law enforcer.	1.4	Fully Implemented
The law enforcement officer uses body-worn cameras during the execution of a search warrant.	1.4	Fully Implemented
The recordings in the serving of warrant can be availed by an investigating agencies/unit where alleged violations of human rights are committed by the police operatives.	1.4	Fully Implemented
The suspect or his/ her counsel is present during the downloading of the data prior to safekeeping by the data custodian, the data downloaded is encrypted by the data custodian to preserve its integrity.	1.4	Fully Implemented
The recordings from body-worn cameras or alternative recording devices were downloaded by the data custodian within 24 hours from the time of their recording.	1.4	Fully Implemented
The warrant officer uses body- worn cameras during the execution of warrant of arrest, the law enforcement officer informs the owner, family members and members of the community present that the search of the building or house is being recorded.	1.5	Fully Implemented
The warrant officer checked the functionality of the body-worn cameras and alternative devices before the execution of the warrant of arrest.	1.5	Fully Implemented
All recordings from body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices were stored in an external media storage device and simultaneously deposited in a sealed package with the issuing court.	1.5	Fully Implemented
The law enforcement officer activated the body-worn-cameras or alternative recording devices during the search until its completion and while leaving the premises and back to the Police station.	1.5	Fully Implemented
The recordings were immediately turned over to the evidence custodian for safekeeping and proper disposition after the execution of the warrant.	1.5	Fully Implemented

The law enforcement officers were given sanctions if they fail to wear body-worn cameras or use alternative recording devices during execution of warrant.	1.5	Fully Implemented
The warrant officer uses alternative recording devices in the absence of body-worn cameras in the execution of a warrant of arrest.	1.6	Fully Implemented
The law enforcement officer wears the body cameras in a conspicuous location and in a manner that maximizes the ability of recording.	1.6	Fully Implemented
The immediate supervisor of an operating law enforcement officer checked the wearing and functionality of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices before the execution of warrant of arrest.	1.6	Fully Implemented
Section mean	1.4	Fully Implemented

B. Level of Implementation of Body-Worn Cameras and Alternative Recording Devices on Policing Practices of Police Personnel in South Cotabato in Terms of Arrest

Table 1 presents the mean level of implementation in the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices in terms of the arrest of a suspect without a warrant.

In Table 1 particularly, body-worn cameras or alternative recording devices were activated during the arrest until the suspect was brought to the police station. The recordings from body-worn cameras or alternative recording devices were downloaded by the data custodian within 24 hours from the time of their recording. The law enforcement officer observes the rights of a suspect during the arrest and adheres to the standard operating procedure. The recordings were immediately turned over to the evidence custodian for safekeeping and proper disposition. They had a mean of 1.4 and gained the highest rank. Secondly, the suspect or his/her counsel is present during the downloading of the data before safekeeping by the data custodian; the data downloaded is encrypted by the data custodian to preserve its integrity; the law enforcement officer informs the suspect(s) that the arrest is being recorded; the recordings from body-worn cameras or alternative recording devices were downloaded by the data custodian within 24 hours from the time of their recording; the recordings of the arrest are available to any investigating agency or unit; and even to the suspect in the case where the suspect's rights are violated. Additionally, the law enforcement officer checked the functionality of the body-worn cameras or alternative recording devices before the arrest of a suspect without a warrant and got a mean of 1.6. Furthermore, the law enforcement officer uses alternative recording devices in the absence of body-worn cameras during the arrest without warrant, which had a mean of 1.7. Moreover, the law enforcement officer using body-worn cameras during the arrest of a suspect without a warrant of arrest had a mean of 1.8 and gained the lowest rank.

Based on the findings of the study, the body worn cameras or alternative recording devices were activated during the arrest until the suspect was brought to the Police station, the recordings from body-worn cameras or alternative recording devices were downloaded by the data custodian within 24 hours from the time of their recording, the law enforcement officer observes the rights of a suspect/s during the arrest and adhere to the standard operating procedure, the recordings were immediately turnover to the evidence custodian for safekeeping and proper disposition had a mean of 1.4 and gained the highest rank. This implies that whenever there is footage during arrest with a warrant or without a warrant, the arresting officer follows the guidelines set by the PNP memorandum to submit the recordings to the evidence custodian to be used in the filing of criminal charges against the suspect or as evidence against the arresting officer in case rights of the suspect/s are violated. This means that the rights of the suspects are being secured and protected and that the PNP personnel adhere to the standards set by the PNP organization. The implementation of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices has been shown to enhance police accountability and transparency, as the recordings can be used to document officer interactions and behaviors (Ariel et al., 2016; Gaub et al., 2016), while law enforcement officers using body-worn cameras during the arrest of a suspect without a warrant of arrest had the lowest mean of 1.8. This implies that not all police officers are wearing body-worn cameras during their shift, especially the 1st and 2nd companies of the Provincial Mobile Force Company, who were not issued body-worn cameras or alternative recording devices. Body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices were only issued to the local police stations and worn only during planned police operations, such as the serving of warrants and other police operations. This means that there is a need to equip all PNP personnel with body-worn cameras involved in law enforcement operations to capture significant events where PNP members are usually accused of violating human rights. The mere presence of body-worn cameras can change behavior and reduce the number of incidents of use of force and complaints against the police (Ariel et al., 2015).

TABLE 2. Level of Implementation in the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices in terms of arrest of a suspect without a warrant

Arrest of a Suspect without warrant	Weighted mean	Verbal description
The body-worn cameras or alternative recording devices were activated during the arrest until the suspect was brought to the police station.	1.4	Fully Implemented
The recordings from body- worn cameras or alternative recording devices were downloaded by the data custodian within 24 hours from the time of their recording.	1.4	Fully Implemented
The law enforcement officer observes the rights of a suspect/s during the arrest and adheres to standard operating procedure.	1.4	Fully Implemented
The recordings were immediately turned over to the evidence custodian for safekeeping and proper disposition.	1.4	Fully Implemented
The suspect or his/ her counsel is present during the downloading of the data prior to safekeeping by the data custodian.	1.5	Fully Implemented
The data downloaded is encrypted by the data custodian to preserve its integrity.	1.5	Fully Implemented
The law enforcement officer informs the suspect/s that the arrest is being recorded.	1.5	Fully Implemented
The recordings captured by the media representative were downloaded by the data custodian or his/her representative within 24 hours from the time of their recording.	1.5	Fully Implemented
The recordings of the arrest are available to any investigating agency/ unit and even to the suspect in the case where the suspect's rights are violated.	1.5	Fully Implemented
The law enforcement officer checked the functionality of the body-worn cameras or alternative recording device before the arrest of a suspect without a warrant.	1.6	Fully Implemented

The law enforcement officer uses alternative recording devices in the absence of body-worn cameras during the arrest without a warrant.	1.7	Fully Implemented
The law enforcement officer uses body-worn cameras during the arrest of a suspect without a warrant of arrest.	1.8	Fully Implemented
Section mean	1.5	Fully Implemented

C. Level of Implementation of Body-Worn Cameras and Alternative Recording Devices On Policing Practices of Police Personnel in South Cotabato in Terms of Other Police Operations

Table 3 presents the mean level of implementation in the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices in terms of other police operations.

In Table 3, particularly, the immediate supervisor of law enforcement officers checked the wearing of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices before the conduct of surveillance of a suspect, and vehicles had a mean of 1.3 and gained the highest rank. Additionally, the immediate supervisor of law enforcement officers checked the wearing of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices before the conduct of the civil disturbance operation, and the recordings during arrest and police operations can be availed of by any investigating agencies or unit where alleged violations of human rights are committed by the police operatives, with a mean of 1.4. Furthermore, the recordings during arrest and police operations were utilized in evidence in case the suspect/s resisted or attacked the law enforcers, the immediate supervisor of law enforcement officers checked the wearing of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices before the conduct of surveillance of an area, the immediate supervisor of an operating law enforcement officers checked the wearing of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices before the execution of search warrant, the law enforcement officer use body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices during operation against drug trafficking (Buy-bust operation, raid, etc.), and the immediate supervisor of an operating law enforcement officers checked the wearing of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices before the conduct of Patrol duties had a mean of 1.5. Moreover, the law enforcement officer use body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices during operation against organized crime, the immediate supervisor of law enforcement officers checked the wearing of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices before the conduct of buy-bust operation, the law enforcement officer use body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices during stake out operation, the immediate supervisor of an operating law enforcement officers checked

the wearing of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices before the execution of warrant of arrest, the immediate supervisor of law enforcement officers checked the wearing of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices before the conduct of checkpoint operations, the law enforcement officer use body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices during hostage-taking operations, the law enforcement officer use body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices during operations against human trafficking, The law enforcement officer use body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices during operations against terrorism, and the law enforcement officers were given sanctions for not wearing the required body-worn cameras during police operations had a mean of 1.6. In addition, the law enforcement officer uses body-worn cameras and other alternative recording devices during surveillance of an area; the law enforcement officer uses body-worn cameras and other alternative recording devices during the conduct of surveillance of a suspect and vehicles; the law enforcement officer uses body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices during civil disturbance management operations; the police investigator uses body-worn cameras and other alternative recording devices during the interview or interrogation of a suspect; and the law enforcement officer uses body-worn cameras and other alternative recording devices during patrol duties, with a mean of 1.7. Lastly, the law enforcement officer uses body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices during checkpoint operations, and the police investigator and SOCO operatives use body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices during crime scene investigation, with a mean of 1.8 and the lowest rank.

Based on the findings of the study, particularly, the immediate supervisor of law enforcement officers checked the wearing of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices before the conduct of surveillance of a suspect, and vehicles had a mean of 1.3 and gained the highest rank. This implies that the use of body-worn cameras in planned police operations, especially in conducting surveillance, is crucial to the operations in gathering information about a suspect and tailing vehicles. This means that recording devices are an indispensable tool for gathering information in any overt or covert operation. Body-worn cameras can be used to gather evidence that can be used in court. This evidence can help

resolve disputes about what occurred during an incident (Gaub et al., 2016). The use of body-worn cameras during police operations removes doubt and leads to transparency in any police operation. Likewise, the footage taken with the use of the body-worn camera is reliable evidence in court, provided that the rules and policies are strictly observed (Tad-awan et al., 2020). While the law enforcement officer uses body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices during checkpoint operation, and the police investigator and SOCO operatives use body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices during crime scene investigation, they had a mean of 1.8 and gained the lowest rank. This implies that some PNP units in SCPPO did not wear body-worn cameras or alternative recording devices during the checkpoint, like the two units of PMFC in SCPPO. The same is true for the investigators and operatives of the SOCO, who are not wearing body-worn cameras or alternative devices. Body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices were only used during planned police operations due to the limited number of these devices in every

police station. This implies that there is a shortage of body-worn cameras in the South Cotabato Provincial Police Office that needs to be addressed by the PNP Organization and the Local Government Unit. This means that the budget is indispensable to every program of the government agencies for its continued operation and success. A whole-government approach is suggested as a means for integrating and coordinating national security policies and programs. To support this approach, recommendations have been made for an integrated national security budget. Focusing on the executive budget process, three approaches to an integrated national security budget are examined: organization-based, program-based, and function-based. Though there are questions about the importance of budget structure and the effectiveness of program budgeting, a whole government-integrated, unified national security budget could facilitate the fiscal trade-offs required between alternative means of pursuing national security objectives in the executive budget (Brook, 2012).

TABLE 3. Level of Implementation on the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices in terms of other police operations

Other Police Operations	Weighted Mean	Verbal Description
The immediate supervisor of law enforcement officers checked the wearing of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices before the conduct of surveillance of a suspect and vehicles.	1.3	Fully Implemented
The immediate supervisor of law enforcement officers checked the wearing of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices before the conduct of Civil Disturbance operation	1.4	Fully Implemented
The recordings during arrest and police operations can be availed by any investigating agencies/unit where alleged violations of human rights are committed by the police operatives.	1.4	Fully Implemented
The recordings during arrest and police operations were utilized in evidence in case the suspect/s resisted or attacked the law enforcers.	1.5	Fully Implemented
The immediate supervisor of law enforcement officers checked the wearing of body- worn cameras and alternative recording devices before the conduct of surveillance of an area.	1.5	Fully Implemented
The law enforcement officer uses body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices during operations against drug trafficking (Buy-bust operations, raids, etc.	1.5	Fully Implemented

The immediate supervisor of an operating law enforcement officer checked the weaning of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices before the execution of search warrant.	1.5	Fully Implemented
The immediate supervisor of an operating law enforcement officer checked the wearing of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices before the conduct of Patrol duties.	1.5	Fully Implemented
The law enforcement officer uses body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices during operations against drug trafficking (Buy-bust operations, raids, etc.).	1.5	Fully Implemented
The law enforcement officer uses body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices during operations against organized crime.	1.6	Fully Implemented
The law enforcement officer uses body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices during stake out operation.	1.6	Fully Implemented
The immediate supervisor of law enforcement officers checked the wearing of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices before the conduct of buy-bust operation.	1.6	Fully Implemented
The law enforcement officer uses body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices during hostage-taking operations.	1.6	Fully Implemented
The immediate supervisor of an operating law enforcement officer checked the wearing of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices before the execution of a warrant of arrest.	1.6	Fully Implemented
The immediate supervisor of law enforcement officers checked the wearing of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices before the conduct of checkpoint operations.	1.6	Fully Implemented
The law enforcement officer uses body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices during operations against human trafficking.	1.6	Fully Implemented
The law enforcement officer uses body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices during operations against terrorism.	1.6	Fully Implemented
The law enforcement officers were given sanctions for not wearing the required body-worn cameras during police operations.	1.6	Fully Implemented
The law enforcement officer uses body-worn cameras recording devices during the conduct of surveillance of a suspect and vehicles.	1.7	Fully Implemented

The law enforcement officer uses body-worn cameras and other alternative recording devices during surveillance of an area.	1.7	Fully Implemented
The law enforcement officer uses body- worn cameras and alternative recording devices during Civil disturbance Management operation.	1.7	Fully Implemented
The law enforcement officer uses body-worn cameras and other alternative recording devices during Patrol duties.	1.7	Fully Implemented
The Police investigator use body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices during interview or interrogation of a suspect.	1.7	Fully Implemented
The Police investigator and SOCO operatives use body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices during crime scene investigation.	1.8	Fully Implemented
The law enforcement officer uses body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices during checkpoint operation.	1.8	Fully Implemented
Section Mean	1.55	Fully Implemented

Table 1.4 presents a summary of the level of implementation of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices on the policing practices of police personnel in South Cotabato; it has a grand mean of 1.45. Out of the three indicators, the execution of warrants had a total of 1.4 with a verbal description of fully implemented, and arrests without a warrant had a total weighted mean of 1.5 with a verbal description of fully implemented, while the other police operations had a total weighted mean of 1.55 with a verbal description of fully implemented.

Based on the results of the study, three indicators were described as strongly in agreement, as shown in the table. Among the three indicators, execution of warrants had the highest with a total weighted mean of 1.4, followed by arrest without a warrant with a weighted mean of 1.5. On the other hand, the other police operations were the lowest, with a weighted mean of 1.55.

Table 4. *Level of implementation of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices on policing practices of Police personnel in South Cotabato*

Indicators	Mean	Verbal Description
Execution of Warrants	1.4	Fully Implemented
Arrest of a suspect without warrant	1.5	Fully Implemented
Other Police Operations	1.55	Fully Implemented
Grand Mean	1.48	Fully Implemented

D. Level of Compliance of South Cotabato PPO Personnel On the Use of Body-Worn Cameras and Alternative Recording Devices in Terms of Rules of Engagement

Table 4 presents the mean level of compliance with the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices in terms of rules of engagement.

In Table 4, particularly the law enforcement officer is knowledgeable about the circumstances that necessitate the deactivation and temporary suspension of the body-worn camera, the law enforcement officer reports any malfunctions or issues regarding the body-worn camera to the appropriate authority promptly, the law enforcement officer believes that the use of body-worn cameras enhances transparency, accountability, and public trust in law enforcement, the recordings of encounters with a suspect/suspects are available to any investigating agencies where alleged violations of human rights are committed by the operatives, and the law enforcement officer is knowledgeable about the circumstances that necessitate the deactivation and temporary suspension at the body-worn camera has a mean of 1 and gained the highest rank. Secondly, the law enforcement officer is aware of the rules and guidelines for using body-worn cameras and alternative devices as outlined by the South Cotabato Police Provincial Office; the law enforcement officer ensures that the body-worn cameras have adequate battery life before commencing field duties; and the law enforcement officer complies with the South Cotabato Police Provincial Office's regulations regarding the storage and preservation of recorded footage, with a mean of 1.1. Additionally, the law enforcement officer maintains body-worn cameras and alternative devices for recording functionality throughout engagements or encounters, with a mean of 1.2. Furthermore, the law enforcement officers inform the suspects that they are being recorded during arrest with a warrant or without a warrant of arrest, with a mean of 1.6. Moreover, law enforcement officers activate their body-worn cameras or alternative recording devices as soon as they begin an interaction with a suspect, and the law enforcement officer who properly activates or turns on the body-worn cameras or uses alternative devices during engagements or encounters in the field had a mean of 1.9. Lastly, law enforcement officers turn on body cameras or alternative recording devices during a shootout with a suspect or suspects who had a mean of 1.9 and gained the lowest rank.

Based on the findings of the study, particularly the law enforcement officer is knowledgeable about the circumstances that necessitate the deactivation and temporary suspension of the body-worn camera, the law enforcement officer reports any malfunctions or issues regarding the body-worn camera to the

appropriate authority promptly, the law enforcement officer believes that the use of body-worn cameras enhances transparency, accountability, and public trust in law enforcement, the recordings of encounters with a suspect/suspects are available to any investigating agencies where alleged violations of human rights are committed by the operatives, and the law enforcement officer is knowledgeable about the circumstances that necessitate the deactivation and temporary suspension at the body-worn camera have a mean of 1 and gained the highest rank. This implies that SCPPO personnel recognize the importance of BWCs and alternative recording devices in law enforcement. to maintain transparency in every police operation and develop a sense of accountability on the part of the operating personnel to prevent them from committing abuses or irregularities during police operations. This means that law enforcement must be balanced with accountability and transparency. According to Miller et al. (2017), the police executives whom PERF consulted cited many ways in which body-worn cameras have helped their agencies strengthen accountability and transparency. These officials said that, by providing a video record of police activity, body-worn cameras have made their operations more transparent to the public and have helped resolve questions following an encounter between officers and members of the public. These officials also said that body-worn cameras are helping to prevent problems from arising in the first place by increasing officer professionalism, helping agencies evaluate and improve officer performance, and allowing agencies to identify and correct larger structural problems within the department. As a result, they report that their agencies are experiencing fewer complaints and that encounters between officers and the public have improved. While the law enforcement officers turned on body cameras or alternative recording devices during a shootout with a suspect or suspects, they had a mean of 1.9 and gained the lowest rank. This implies that there are times when body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices were not used during a shootout with a suspect since the BWCs and ARDs were only used during planned police operations. It is only the Koronadal Police Station that has a few body-worn cameras issued by the PNP Organization that are being used during patrol duties, checkpoints, escorts of VIPs, special celebrations, and planned police operations. This means that the current program of the PNP Organization on the use of body-worn cameras has failed to meet its objectives because not all PNP officers involved in police operations are wearing body-worn cameras. There should be enough budget for every government program to successfully reach its goals and objectives. Without a clear funding source, unfunded mandates imposed on local governments defeat the purpose of the policy objectives set in those mandates (Llanto, 2012).

Table 5. Level of compliance on the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices in terms of rules of engagement

Rules of engagement	Weighted mean	Verbal description
The law enforcement offices believe that the use of body worn cameras enhances transparency, accountability, and public trust in law enforcement.	1	High Compliance
The recordings of encounters with a suspect/suspects are available to any investigating agencies where alleged violations of human rights are committed by the operatives.	1	High Compliance
The law enforcement officer reports any malfunctions or issues regarding the body- worn camera to the appropriate authority promptly.	1	High Compliance
The law enforcement officer is knowledgeable about the circumstances that necessitate the deactivation and temporary suspension at the body worn camera.	1	High Compliance
The law enforcement officer is aware of the rules and guidelines for using body worn cameras and alternative devices as outlined by the South Cotabato Police Provincial Office.	1.1	High Compliance
The law enforcement officer ensures that the body worn cameras have adequate battery life before commencing field duties.	1.1	High Compliance
The law enforcement officer complies with the South Cotabato Police Provincial Office's regulations regarding the storage and preservation of recorded footage.	1.1	High Compliance
The law enforcement officer maintains the body worn cameras and alternative devices recording functionality throughout the duration of engagements or encounters.	1.2	High Compliance
The law enforcement officers inform the suspects that they are being recorded during arrest with a warrant or without warrant of arrest.	1.6	High Compliance
The Law enforcement officers activate their body worn cameras or alternative recording devices as soon as they begin an interaction with a suspect.	1.8	Moderate Compliance

The law enforcement officer properly activates or turns on the body worn cameras or uses alternative devices during engagements or encounters in the field.	1.8	Moderate Compliance
The law enforcement officers turn on body cameras or alternative recording devices during shoot out with a suspect or suspects.	1.9	Moderate Compliance
Section mean	1.3	High Compliance

E. Level of Compliance of South Cotabato PPO Personnel On the Use of Body-Worn Cameras and Alternative Recording Devices in Terms of Observance of the Rights of the Suspects

Table 5 presents the mean level of implementation in the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices in terms of observance of the rights of suspects.

In table 5, particularly there is a written policy in place that clearly outlines the appropriate use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording device, there is a procedure to protect the privacy rights of suspects during interactions and encounters, I believe that ongoing training and support as necessary to improve compliance with the use of body- worn cameras and suspect rights protection, the recordings of interactions of suspect/s can be availed by any investigating agencies/unit on the alleged violation of human rights committed by law enforcement officers, the law enforcement officer shall not record private or casual conversations with a civilian/s without consent, the law enforcement officer is aware of the guidelines for the retention and storage of footage captures by body- worn camera and alternative recording device, the law enforcement officer actively reviews body-worn camera footage to ensure compliance with suspect's rights, and there are mechanisms in place to securely store, manage, and retain recorded footage, ensuring its integrity and preventing unauthorized access had a mean of 1 and gained the highest rank. Secondly, there is an established process for reviewing and addressing any complaints or concerns regarding the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices, with a mean of 1.1. Additionally, the law enforcement officer informs the objecting suspect/s the legality of the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices regarding the use of body-worn cameras during interactions, the law enforcement officer is familiar with the guidelines and protocols regarding the proper use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices during interactions with suspects, the law enforcement officer received sufficient training on the laws and regulations that relate to protecting the rights of suspects when using body-worn cameras, and the law enforcement officer believes that the use of body-worn cameras has positively contributed to protecting the rights of suspects during interactions had a mean of 1.2. Furthermore, the law enforcement officer will only record interactions between

suspects who are attempting, actually committing, or have just committed a crime with a mean of 1.30. Moreover, the law enforcement officer wears body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices consistently during duty hours when interacting with suspects, with a mean of 1.7. Lastly, the law enforcement officer received proper training on the use of these devices, including guidelines on where and when they should be activated, had a mean of 1.8, and gained the lowest rank.

Based on the findings of the study, there is a written policy in place that clearly outlines the appropriate use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording device, there is a procedure to protect the privacy rights of suspects during interactions and encounters, I believe that ongoing training and support is necessary to improve compliance with the use of body- worn cameras and suspect rights protection, the recordings of interactions of suspect/s can be availed by any investigating agencies/unit on the alleged violation of human rights committed by law enforcement officers, the law enforcement officer shall not record private or casual conversations with a civilian/s without consent, the law enforcement officer is aware of the guidelines for the retention and storage of footage captured by body- worn camera and alternative recording device, the law enforcement officer actively reviews body-worn camera footage to ensure compliance with suspect's rights, and there are mechanisms in place to securely store, manage, and retain recorded footage, ensuring its integrity and preventing unauthorized access had a mean of 1 and gained the highest rank. This implies that measures are established for the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices to safeguard the rights of the suspect(s). This means that in law enforcement, the rights of innocents as well as of law violators must be observed at all times. Law enforcers should set an example by being a law-abider and not a lawbreaker. The state shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption. This establishes the duty of public officials, including law enforcers, to uphold the law and maintain integrity in public service. Article II, Section 27 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution. The Supreme Court stated that "public officers must at all times be accountable to the people and serve them with the utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency." Araneta v. Dinglasan, G.R. No. 162243, 2008. While the law enforcement officer received proper training on the use of these devices, including guidelines on where and

when they should be activated, he had a mean of 1.8 and gained the lowest rank. This implies that the majority of the SCPPO personnel do not know how to operate these devices. It is only the evidence custodian and some police personnel who are actively involved in planned police operations who are skilled or knowledgeable about these devices. This will hamper the successful investigation, arrest, and prosecution of suspects if

the planned police operations are assigned to other PNP personnel in the police station or unit. To make government programs attain their goals and objectives, they should include all personnel in the department or agency. Fung (2006) stated that the multifaceted challenges of contemporary governance demand a complex account of the ways in which those who are subject to laws and policies should participate in making them.

Table 6. Level of compliance in the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices in terms of Observance of the rights of suspects

Observance of the rights of suspects.	Weighted mean	Verbal description
There is a written policy in place that clearly outlines the appropriate use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices.	1	High Compliance
There is a procedure to protect the privacy rights of suspects during interactions and encounters.	1	High Compliance
I believe that ongoing training and support is necessary to improve compliance with the use of body worn cameras and suspect rights protection.	1	High Compliance
The recordings of interactions of suspect/s can be availed by any investigating / agencies/unit on the alleged violation of human rights committed by law enforcement officers.	1	High Compliance
The law enforcement officer shall not record private or casual conversations with a civilian/s without consent.	1	High Compliance
The law enforcement officer is aware of the guidelines for the retention and storage of footage captured by body worn cameras and alternative recording devices.	1	High Compliance
The law enforcement officer actively reviews body worn camera footage to ensure compliance with the suspect's rights.	1	High Compliance
There are mechanisms in place to securely store, manage, and retain recorded footage, ensuring its integrity and preventing unauthorized access.	1	High Compliance
There is an established process for reviewing and addressing any complaints or concerns regarding the use of body worn cameras and alternative recording devices.	1.1	High Compliance
The law enforcement officer informs the objecting suspect/s the legality of the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices regarding the use of body- worn cameras during interactions.	1.2	High Compliance
The law enforcement officer is familiar with the guidelines and protocols regarding the proper use of body worn cameras and alternative recording devices during interactions with suspects.	1.2	High Compliance
The law enforcement officer received sufficient training on the laws and regulations that relate to protecting the rights of suspects when using body- worn cameras.	1.2	High Compliance

The law enforcement officer believes that the use of body worn cameras has positively contributed to protecting the rights of suspects during interactions.	1.2	High Compliance
The law enforcement officer will only record interactions of suspects who are attempting, actually committing or has just committed a crime.	1.3	High Compliance
The law enforcement officer wears body worn cameras and alternative recording devices consistently during duty hours when interacting with suspect/s.	1.7	High Compliance
The law enforcement offices received proper training on the use of these devices, including guidelines on where and when they should be activated.	1.8	High Compliance
Section mean	1.24	High Compliance

Table 6 presented the summary of indicators, wherein it revealed that the compliance of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices has a grand mean of 1.27. Out of the two indicators, the rules of engagement have a total weighted mean of 1.3 with a verbal description of high compliance. The observance of the rights of the suspect has a total weighted mean of 1.24 with a verbal description of high compliance.

Based on the results of the study, two of the indicators were described as high compliance, as shown in the table. Among the two indicators, observance of the rights of suspects was the highest, with a total weighted mean of 1.24. On the other hand, rules of engagement were the lowest, with a weighted mean of 1.3.

TABLE 7. Compliance of South Cotabato Provincial Police Office personnel on the use of body- worn cameras and alternative recording devices

Indicators	Mean	Verbal Description
Rules of engagement	1.3	High Compliance
Observance of the rights of suspects	1.24	High Compliance
Grand Mean	1.27	High Compliance

F. Level Of Implementation Of Body-Worn Cameras And Other Alternative Recording Devices On The Policing Practices Of Police Personnel In South Cotabato

The qualitative analysis revealed several key themes related to the implementation of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices. This interview with PNP personnel assigned to eleven (11) police stations, the first and second companies of PMFC, and the police provincial office highlighted the following:

➤ *Challenges in the implementation of A.M. No. 21-06-08-SC and PNP Memorandum Circular No. 2018-009*

The interviews revealed that one of the challenges encountered in the implementation of the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices is the lack of budget for purchasing body-worn cameras. The majority of the police stations in the South Cotabato Provincial Police Office use alternative recording devices funded by their respective municipalities. The local police stations bought their ARDs from Shopee and other suppliers. It is only the Koronadal City

Police Station that has body-worn cameras issued by the PNP Organization. The T'boli Police Station acquired the body-worn cameras from the PNP Organization, which the local government funded. The lack of funds resulted in the insufficiency of several body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices in every police unit of the South Cotabato Provincial Police Office. Another is the lack of training on the part of PNP personnel in handling body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices. It was only the data or evidence custodian who underwent training on the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices. The lack of training resulted in the inability of some PNP personnel to properly operate the body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices. There are times when the date and time of the alternative recording devices will not coincide with the present date and time during police operations.

➤ *Challenges encountered in the guidelines of PNP Operational Procedures, PNP Memorandum Circular No. 2018-009, and A.M. No. 21-06-08-SC*

The interviews revealed that there are conflicting guidelines between the three policies. According to the guidelines of PNP MC No. 2018-009, the recording of any planned police operations should start from the police station to the area of operation until the subject is arrested and transferred to a detention facility or police lock-up, following Operational Phases No. 2 and No. 7 (par. 4 of this rule. Whereas in A.M. No. 21-06-08-SC, the activation of the body-worn cameras or alternative recording devices should start upon arrival at the place of arrest until the suspect is brought to the police station and put to jail according to Section 3, Rule 2 of this Rule, and the place to be searched until the search is fully concluded and the officers searching have left the premises and returned to the police station under Section 5, Rule 3 of this Rule. According to the guidelines of the PNP Operational Manual, the arrested person should be brought immediately to the nearest police station, and after booking, the suspect should undergo a medical checkup with an accredited physician or hospital for a medical examination before being put in a detention cell or police lock-up. These conflicting policies may result in misunderstandings and disputes between the arresting officers, desk officers, and jail officers. The arresting officers may assert that the arrested suspect should be immediately put on police lock-up after the arrest according to the policy set by the Supreme Court, while the desk officer and the jail officer will not accept the turnover of the suspect unless the arresting officers can present a medical certificate of the suspect under the PNP Manual Operational Procedures.

➤ *Challenges encountered during the execution of warrants, arrests without warrants, and other police operations*

The interviews revealed that one of the challenges encountered by the operating elements in the use of body-worn cameras and alternative devices is that they are bulky, detachable, and noticeable. The present body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices are not fit for clandestine operations like the serving of a warrant of arrest to a habitual and notorious criminal, for the subject can easily notice the presence of plainclothes PNP personnel wearing a body-worn camera or alternative recording devices. It also hampers the arrest of a suspect who is fleeing from the arresting officers because the body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices can be easily detached, may fall to the ground, and may result in damage or malfunction. Another is that it has a limited field of view when it is worn by a searcher during the execution of a search warrant. The image will be limited only to the object or place where the lens is focused, excluding the surroundings of the area. It defeats the very purpose of wearing body-worn cameras to prevent the planting of evidence of police scalawags on an innocent citizen and false accusations by the suspect against law enforcement operatives. In addition, the present

body-worn cameras or alternative recording devices are not suitable for some drug operations, like buy-bust operations. The PNP guidelines and those of the Supreme Court provide that the activation of audio and video from body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices should start at the police station and continue to the area of operation until he is arrested and brought to the police station. In conducting a buy-bust operation, the poseur-buyer will see to it that the suspect cannot sense that he is a police operative or a police asset to complete the transaction, and so the poseur-buyer can't wear body-worn cameras or alternative recording devices without being noticed. If it is so, the wearing of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices will only impede the successful prosecution of the suspect or conviction of the accused. The defense counsel may ask for a motion to quash for insufficiency of evidence or will raise a cloud of doubt during court trial because the actual transaction between the suspect and the poseur-buyer was not recorded during the operation. Another is that the other units of the PNP assigned to SCCPO, like the 1st and 2nd companies of the Provincial Mobile Force Company, were not issued body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices since their role is usually supplementary to the local police operations. In counter-insurgency and terrorism operations, they cannot provide footage of their encounters with the rebels and terrorists, and this might result in false allegations against the police operatives of violations of human rights after legitimate armed encounters with the rebels and terrorists.

➤ *Challenges encountered in the technical operations of Body-Worn Cameras and Alternative Recording Devices*

The interviews revealed that there are two kinds of body-worn cameras issued by the PNP Organization. One has a SIM, and the other is without a SIM. The body camera that has a SIM is used for monitoring police personnel by the Police Regional Office and National Headquarters in Camp Crame. These are issued to patrol officers conducting patrol duties, checkpoints, VIP escorts, and other significant events or celebrations, while the other body-worn cameras are used for the serving of search warrants and warrants of arrest and other planned police operations. The challenge that they have encountered in using body-worn cameras with a sim is the loss of connection during police operations. The data or footage of significant events or police operations will not be monitored or recorded by the Police Regional Office or National Headquarters. Another is the maintenance of the body-worn cameras with SIM. There is a need to regularly load the above-mentioned body-worn cameras to be shouldered by the police station.

The interviews revealed that the alternative recording device is fragile and sensitive compared to body-worn cameras issued by the PNP Organization. There are times that it malfunctions during police operations. The date and time sometimes suddenly changed on their own, which is crucial in the prosecution of the suspect and the prevention of police scalawags from committing irregularities during police

operations. The alternative recording device has a shorter battery life, needs more batteries during police operations, and has a limited storage capacity. This will affect police operations like stakeouts, surveillance, and buy-bust operations, where the transaction between the poseur-buyer and the suspect takes a longer time to consummate. The T'boli Police Station has encountered a unique challenge in using the body-worn

cameras since they have to travel from T'boli to Koronadal City Police Station for the extraction of the data or recordings within 24 hours in compliance with the A.M. of the Supreme Court. The T'boli Police Station acquired its body-worn cameras from the PNP Organization but does not have the system for the extraction of data because it lacks the system for data storage. It was only funded by their local government.

TABLE 8. Challenges encountered in the Use of Body-Worn Cameras and Alternative Recording Devices

Theme	Description	Example Quotes
Conflicting policies of A.M. No. 21-06-08-SC and PNP Memorandum Circular NO. 2018-009	Issues related to the implementation of guidelines from the Supreme Court and Memorandum Circular of the PNP.	“We are confused about what guidelines to be followed.” “It leads to disputes between desk officers and arresting officers.” “It may lead to insufficiency of evidence.”
Cost and Budgetary Constraint	Financial implications of implementation in the use body-worn cameras	“We do not have a sufficient number of body-worn cameras to be used by personnel involved in police operations.” “We do not have body-worn cameras issued by the PNP Organization.” “We only used alternative recording devices bought from shopee and other providers.” “The alternative recording devices were provided by the local government unit.”
Training and Adoption	Lack of training resulted to inability to operate the body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices	“Most of us did not receive proper training on how to operate body-worn cameras.” “There should be periodic and region wide training to be conducted for all officers.” “It is only the evidence custodian or warrant officers who received proper training.”.
Operational Impacts	The effects of using body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices on policing practices, officer-citizen interactions, and overall workflow.	“it hampers the arrest of the suspect/s.” “Not suited for clandestine operations.” “It is visible and detachable.” “
Technical challenges	Issues related to functionality, durability, and usability of the body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices	“It has limited field of view” “The PNP issued body-worn cameras is inoperational in remote areas that do not have signal.” The alternative recording devices are fragile.” “Alternative recording devices usually experience camera drift.”
Lack of interoperability	Difficulties in integrating recording systems with existing technology infrastructure and data management systems.	“There is a need for us to go to Koronadal City Police Station to extract the recorded footage” “The alternative recording devices do not have management systems”

VII. PROPOSED POLICY ENHANCEMENT

A. PURPOSE

- Establish guidelines and protocols for the effective and responsible use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices by PNP personnel in the South Cotabato Provincial Police Office.
- Ensure the protection of individual privacy rights while promoting transparency and accountability in policing.

B. SCOPE

- This policy applies to the national government, the PNP organization, and all PNP personnel assigned to the South Cotabato Provincial Police Office who are issued or required to use body-worn cameras or alternative recording devices.
- It covers the alignment of policies, budget allocation, procurement, deployment, activation, recording, storage, and access to BWC and alternative recording device footage.

C. POLICY ALIGNMENT

The Supreme Court and the PNP Organization: There should be consistency, coordination, and compatibility of the policies, regulations, and operational practices issued by the Judiciary and the PNP Administration.

D. BUDGET ALLOCATION

National Government: The National Government must provide the PNP Organization with enough budget for the procurement of body-worn cameras to equip all PNP members involved in any police operations. The use of alternative recording devices must be discouraged.

E. PROCUREMENT

The PNP Administration should choose body-worn cameras for every police operation. There should be separate body-worn cameras to be worn by police operatives during clandestine and planned police operations and body-worn cameras for police visibility like patrol, VIP escort, checkpoints, and during special events such as fiesta celebrations, founding anniversaries, and the like.

F. DEPLOYMENT AND ACTIVATION

- Mandatory Deployment: All PNP members involved in any police operations shall be issued body-worn cameras suitable for their respective police operations, regardless of their units.
- Activation requirements: All PNP members shall activate their body-worn cameras at the start of any law enforcement encounter or interaction with the public, including but not limited to:

- Traffic Stops
- Checkpoint
- Serving of warrants, arrest without a warrant, and detentions
- Use of force incidents
- Anti-terrorism operations
- Interviews and interrogations during a custodial investigation
- Overt and covert police operations

- Exceptions: PNP officers may temporarily deactivate their BWCs in situations where privacy concerns outweigh the public interest, such as when interviewing victims of sexual assault or sensitive crimes. Entering a private property not related to law enforcement or having a casual conversation with the public.

G. RECORDING AND DATA MANAGEMENT

- Video and Audio Recording: Body-worn cameras shall record both video and audio during all activated encounters.
- Continuous recording: Body-worn cameras shall record continuously until the conclusion of the police operations or interaction with a suspect, witness, or victim.
- Data Storage and Retention: All body-worn camera footage shall be securely stored and retained for 60 days, except for those recorded data that are pending investigation, used as evidence for court proceedings, or useful for training PNP personnel. All recorded data that has evidential value shall not be destroyed until the termination of the case, either by conviction or acquittal of the accused.
- Access and Review: Access to body-worn camera footage shall be limited to authorized personnel only. There should be an evidence custodian in every police station or unit in charge of the recorded footage. These videos can be accessed for legitimate law enforcement purposes only, such as:
 - Investigations
 - Complaint review
 - Training and supervision
 - Litigation and discovery
- Public Disclosure: BWC footage shall be subject to public disclosure, with appropriate redactions to protect individual privacy, under the existing policies, rules, and regulations. Victims of police irregularities and abuses shall be given access to the footage for the filing of appropriate charges against erring police personnel.

H. TRAINING AND COMPLIANCE

- Training: All PNP members involved in any police operations shall receive comprehensive training on the proper use and operation of BWCs, as well as the policies and procedures governing their use. There should be region-wide training conducted semi-annually. Symposiums must also be conducted semi-annually for open discussions,

presentations, and the exchange of perspectives and experiences of PNP personnel on the use of body-worn cameras. Focus groups should also be conducted with selected frontline officers, supervisors, and community representatives to get more in-depth feedback.

- Compliance: Failure to wear, activate, or properly use a BWC, or intentional tampering with or destruction of BWC footage, shall be subject to disciplinary action.

I. POLICY REVIEW AND EVALUATION

- Regular Review: This policy shall be reviewed and updated periodically to ensure it remains effective and aligned with best practices. This policy should be reviewed semi-annually based on the findings from the symposium and focus group conducted.
- Community Engagement: The PNP Organization shall engage with community stakeholders and civil rights groups to gather feedback and input on the implementation and impact of the BWC program.

J. X. EFFECTIVE DATE

- *This policy shall take effect on January 30, 2024.*

This proposed policy enhancement provides a comprehensive framework for the use of body-worn cameras by law enforcement, addressing key aspects such as budget allocation, procurement, deployment, activation, recording, data management training, and compliance. It aims to balance the need for efficiency, transparency, and accountability with the protection of individual privacy rights.

Body-worn cameras provide an objective record of interactions between law enforcement officers and the public. This enhances transparency and helps to hold both officers and citizens accountable for their actions, promoting trust and improving police-community relations. The presence of body-worn cameras can lead to a reduction in the use of force by law enforcement officers, as the knowledge of being recorded can encourage de-escalation and more professional conduct. Footage from body-worn cameras can provide valuable evidence for criminal investigations and court proceedings, leading to more accurate and reliable case outcomes. It can also deter false or unfounded accusations against law enforcement officers, as the footage provides an objective record of the interaction. Lastly, adopting a comprehensive body-worn camera policy aligns with recommendations from leading law enforcement organizations and civil rights groups, further strengthening the justification for its implementation.

VIII. CONCLUSIONS

The conclusion for SOP number one is that the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices was fully implemented by the South Cotabato Provincial Police personnel. All warrant officers who are serving warrants of arrest and search warrants are equipped with body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices during police operations. There are only some PNP personnel who do not wear body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices when doing routine activities such as checkpoints and patrol duties due to the limited number of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices. In such cases, there are encounters and interactions between PNP personnel and suspects that do not have video footage, especially during an arrest without a warrant. Body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices were also used during planned police operations executed by the police stations, except for the intelligence unit of the Provincial Police Office and the two companies of the Provincial Mobile Force Company. There is a need to purchase more body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices to equip all PNP personnel involved in any police operations.

The conclusion for SOP number two is that the South Cotabato Provincial Police Office personnel highly comply with the policy on the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices. Body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices were worn during shootouts or armed encounters with suspects during the serving of warrants and planned police operations. The rules of engagement were strictly adhered to by the PNP operatives to prevent violations of human rights. They have ensured that the guidelines on the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices were observed and followed to protect the privacy of the public and the successful prosecution of suspects.

The South Cotabato Provincial Police Office personnel fully supported the program of the PNP Organization on the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices. The study suggested that body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices can be an effective tool for improving police-community relations and enhancing the integrity of law enforcement operations. As the PNP continues to roll out these technologies nationwide, it will be important to address the logistical and procedural obstacles to ensure the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of the program.

The successful implementation of these digital recording systems represents an important step forward for the PNP in strengthening public trust and accountability. With continued commitment and refinement of the policies and practices surrounding their use, these technologies hold great promise for transforming policing in the Philippines.

The conclusion for SOP number three is that the South Cotabato Provincial Police Office faced daunting challenges in the implementation of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices. The challenges were a lack of budget to equip all PNP members involved in police operations, a lack of training in handling body-worn cameras that may result in incomplete or lack of evidence, liability issues where officers may be accused of intentionally failing to record the incident, disciplinary actions where officers may be reprimanded, suspended, or dismissed from the service, and the public may lose confidence in law enforcement agencies. The conflicting policies between the AM issued by the Supreme Court and the Memorandum Circular issued by the PNP resulted in inconsistent implementation that led to confusion and frustration. The PNP personnel became frustrated and confused about the policy to be followed. The current body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices are suited only to overt operations. There is a need to purchase another kind of clandestine operation to meet the operational needs of every police station, like hot pursuit and the serving of search warrants. The body-worn cameras with a SIM issued by the PNP organization should not be dependent only on internet service providers, where loss of internet connection is usually experienced in remote areas. Thus, the significant events were not monitored by the Police Regional Office or National Headquarters. The alternative recording devices are technically less effective. It has a shorter battery life and usually experiences camera drift. There is a need to address these challenges to attain the goals and objectives of the PNP Program on the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings and conclusions of the study, the following recommendations were given:

- It is recommended that the national government adopt a policy to equip all members of the PNP with body-worn cameras during police operations. The Executive Department must propose to Congress the allocation of a sufficient budget for the procurement of body-worn cameras for all members of the PNP personnel involved in police operations. Congress must pass a law penalizing law enforcement personnel for not wearing or failing to activate BWCs during their shifts or police operations. There should be severe penalties for anybody who intentionally tampered with or destroyed BWC footage. Napolcom, which has the power to administer and control the PNP organization, must issue a memorandum circular regarding the use of body-worn cameras during their shift or any police operations. It must issue guidelines on mandatory wearing of BWCs, deployment, activation requirements, recording and data management, training, public disclosure of data, and compliance. Sanctions must also be provided for every violation committed by PNP personnel, so that an erring

PNP member will not only be charged criminally but also administratively. This will fill the gap created by three conflicting policies issued by the Supreme Court and the PNP Administration.

- It is recommended that the PNP Administration procure separate body-worn cameras intended for overt and covert operations to address the present concerns of the PNP operatives. Body-worn cameras for clandestine operations should not be visible or noticeable. The use of alternative recording devices should be discouraged for being fragile and inefficient. Secondly, the PNP organization must enhance data management. The police administration must invest in secure, scalable systems for storing and organizing recorded video and audio. Develop specialized data management protocols to ensure the integrity and accessibility of evidence. Encourage the use of cloud-based storage solutions to supplement on-site infrastructure. Furthermore, the PNP Administration must monitor and evaluate program effectiveness. They should conduct regular, independent assessments of the technology's impacts on policing outcomes. Track key performance metrics such as citizen complaints, use of force incidents, and officer accountability. Lastly, the PNP Administration must explore innovative alternative recording technologies. Conduct research and pilot new devices such as dashboard cameras, drones, 360-degree or VR cameras, pinhole cameras, and satellite-enabled body-worn cameras.

The South Cotabato Police Personnel Office should strictly monitor all police stations for the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices in accordance with the established rules and regulations. It should conduct a periodic audit of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices to assess the needs of every police station under its jurisdiction. Training must also be provided to all members of the South Cotabato Provincial Police Office personnel on the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices. All officers involved must be educated on relevant policies, procedures, and legal and ethical considerations. All PNP officers who are involved in the operation must wear body-worn cameras to ensure transparency and accountability among its members. Secondly, the Chief of Police or Head of Unit must strictly monitor the use of body-worn cameras during their shifts, regardless of their units, and during any police operations. Provided that the BWCs shall be deactivated where privacy concerns outweigh the public interest. Additionally, there should be continuous recording of the events of police operations until their conclusion or interaction with a suspect, witness, or victim. Furthermore, all BWC footage must be stored in a secured system. It must be retained until the termination of the case, either by conviction or acquittal. There should be an evidence custodian in every police station in charge of the safekeeping and extraction of recorded data to establish responsibility and accountability. Moreover, BWC footage can only be disclosed to the public with appropriate

redactions to protect individual rights to privacy. The evidence custodian must block out or obscure some parts of the video to conceal sensitive or confidential information before it is released to the media or public. In addition, there must be region-wide comprehensive training for all members of the PNP in the proper use and operation of BWCs, as well as policies and guidelines governing their use. The Chief of Police or Head of Unit must ensure the attendance of all PNP members under his or her command. The training must be scheduled by batch to accommodate all PNP members in every police station. Lastly, the Chief of Police must find ways to increase the number of alternative recording devices in his unit. He should look for other donors from other stakeholders, like community organizations, education, business, and economic stakeholders. The Chief of Police should provide his personnel with ARDs that are suitable for their operation. The use of 360 cameras or VR cameras must be encouraged during the serving of search warrants. Miniature cameras or pinhole cameras must also be used during clandestine operations like surveillance, stake-out, or buy-bust operations. The Chief of Police should see to it that the majority of his PNP personnel are equipped with alternative recording devices during planned police operations. Patrol officers and PNP members who are always in contact with the community should always wear body-worn cameras or alternative recording devices. This will increase efficiency and accountability on the part of PNP personnel and the confidence of the public. It is recommended that the PNP personnel of every unit in the South Cotabato Police Provincial Office adhere to the existing guidelines, rules, and regulations on the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices. They should read and understand the rules and regulations and apply them to their daily routine of activities and planned police operations. They should also find ways to implement the conflicting policies issued by the Supreme Court and the PNP to reconcile these two policies. Before staging a planned police operation like the serving of a warrant of arrest or buy-bust operations, the PNP operatives should bring with them PNP Booking Form -1, "Medical Examination of Arrested Suspects Request Form," so that after the arrest of a suspect, he or she will be immediately subjected to medical examination before the booking and turnover of the arrested person to the police station. They should also launch an information campaign on the use of body-worn cameras to inform the public of the importance of the program to law enforcement and also of the rights of every citizen. The local government unit should continue to support the PNP in this program. They should provide more body-worn cameras or alternative recording devices to their respective police stations. It should purchase a body-worn camera issued to the PNP to ensure its effectiveness, suitability, and durability.

- It is recommended that the community support the ongoing program of the PNP Organization on the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices. Stakeholders should allocate a budget and donate it to the local police stations to meet the needs of their respective units. They

should coordinate with the Chief of Police to determine the needs of their local police station as to the number and specifications of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices for law enforcement.

- The researcher suggests that future researchers should assess the perceptions and attitudes of the public to understand the public's perspective on the use of these devices. Gauge concerns about transparency, accountability, and the balance between public safety and personal freedoms. The future researcher should also compare the effectiveness of different devices, such as dashcams, surveillance cameras, and citizen-owned devices. to assess the relative performance, reliability, and cost-effectiveness of various body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices.

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