

## Implementation of Cross-Border Requirements: Challenges Encountered by the Police Officer

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### ABSTRACT

This is beneficial in organizing and ensuring a systematic way of posting information about their travel policies and requirements that can be processed online. The system can also help the Philippine National Police (PNP) guide residents going to other LGUs in applying for travel documents when needed and with the help of the LGUs in monitoring travellers in their territories and verify the authenticity of travel documents presented. Also, Monitoring Agencies can easily monitor the travellers and generate a report at the municipal, provincial, levels for monitoring and planning purposes. The study explored the challenges encountered by Police Officer in the implementing of cross-border requirements. The study used interviewed guide question and interview guide as the main instrument to gather the data needed for the study. Part I. Respondents Profile which are formulated by the researchers that deals with the profile of the respondents such as Age, Civil Status, Gender and Length of Service. Also consisting Part II. Core Questions and Part III. Terminating Questions as an interview guide. The study consists of a total of 10 participants who are PNP personnel in Liloan Border and Ozamis Port. The researchers purposive choose five participants every border at Misamis Occidental. The participants were interviewed under the following criteria: 1) experience with implementing the border entrance requirements, 2) Difficulties encountered in performing the duties, 3) Common excuse upon entering the border. Non-compliance to Border Entry, Encountered travellers bringing forged document requirements, Professionalism in Handling Arrogant travellers, adhering to Border and protocol requirements in travelling. There were several problems or issues encountered by the PNP in the border majority is having no requirements as the same time against by their religion or having a Doctor's advices as reasons against vaccination. As the researcher conduct this study they seen the efforts of the PNP in enforcing the law by maintaining their patience towards from the passengers who have arrogant attitude. But in the other hand they already know that every passenger entering the border line they have vaccination cards in order for them to pass through. The IATF is no longer strict about the protocol and they also know lots of the travelers are already vaccinated. The study in the non-compliance in border many have not yet getting vaccinated but the IATF issue in the border to have free vaccination in the area, some of the travellers will not proceed in the province if they have no requirements needed in border.

**Keyword:** Covid-19, Health protocol, Patience, Professionalism, Work commitment.

### 1. Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a dramatic loss of human life worldwide and presents an unprecedented challenge to public health, food systems and the world of work (Kulkarni, 2020). The economic and social disruption caused by the pandemic is devastating: tens of millions of people are at risk of falling into extreme poverty (Albaradi, 2021) while the number of undernourished people, currently estimated at nearly 690 million, could increase by up to 132 million by the end of the year. Millions of enterprises face an existential threat. Nearly half of the world's 3.3 billion global workforce are at risk of losing their livelihoods.

Informal economy workers are particularly vulnerable because the majority lack social protection and access to quality health care and have lost access to productive assets. Without the means to earn an income during lockdowns, many are unable to feed themselves and their families. For most, no income means no food, or, at best, less food and less nutritious food (Kontoangelos, 2020).

The coronavirus pandemic rapidly sweeps across the world, it is inducing a considerable degree of fear, worry and concerning the population at large and among certain groups in particular such as older adults, care providers and people with underlying health conditions (Tscharket, 2018). In these challenging times, police leaders can learn from one another by understanding how their colleagues from around the world are responding to this pandemic

(Alcadipani, 2020). If the Local Government Unit (LGU) is on Restricted level a travel coordination permit (TCP) should be applied, however if the LGU is declared as Unrestricted LGUs, a travel Pass-Through Permit (TPP) can be generated and presented. The S-pass is to be used before and during actual travel (Quimba, 2018).

The requirements like vaccine card, anti gen test is a travel management system and nota contact tracing application that other local government unit if you traveling somewhere in the Philippines both passenger in public vehicle must be bring the requirements in applying online through website for travel documents (Kaplan, 2021).

Depending on the travel make sure to register as SPASS to acquire requirements to monitor travel restriction status of your destination (Emma Stewart, 2020). It also served as an aid for authorities to monitor the movement of people and make informative strategies to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (Pan, 2020). Through the application Local Government Unit (LGU) can facilitate inbound and transient travelers in coordination with their localities. Movements of visitors who will enter a local destination registered under the S-Pass will be monitored through their uniquely generated S-pass quick response (QR) Code. Upon scanning the QR Code, the traveler's record will automatically log into the system, serving as an electronic logbook. It served as its complementary application used to check travel restrictions status. The S-Pass is a travel management system that can facilitate local travel where the public can access information on travel restrictions implemented by different Local Government Units (LGU) due to the COVID-19 pandemic Around the world, the COVID-19 widespread has had an annihilating effect on detainees. The prison environment and prisoner health put prison populations at the next hazard of contracting COVID-19.

This is beneficial in organizing and ensuring a systematic way of posting information about their travel policies and requirements that can be processed online. The system can also help the Philippine National Police (PNP) guide residents going to other LGUs in applying for travel documents when needed and with the help of the LGUs in monitoring travelers in their territories and verify the authenticity of travel documents presented (Nicole, 2021). Also, Monitoring Agencies can easily monitor the travelers and generate a report at the municipal, provincial, levels for monitoring and planning purposes. To fully maximize the features of the requirements the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) encourages travelers to register by logging in the website and register using personal mobile numbers through the website. From there, the documents required by the LGU of destination and their restrictions on travel can be viewed. For TCPs, it can be submitted through the website. Most LGUs have contact numbers for easy coordination and verification of the status of TCP approval.

It is advisable that travelers apply 1-2 days before their trip as the duration of approval depends on the LGU and not the system itself. The success of the smooth implementation of the system can be attributed to the responsible contribution and action of the travelers, the LGUs, the PNP, and monitoring agencies. With the collaboration of different organizations, more developments and innovations can be productively generated to steer the province into maximizing the advantages of science and technology for the people. The Philippine National Police (PNP) welcomes the development of this local mobility feature as a tool which integrates the processing system for the issuance of Travel Pass-Through Permit (TPP) and Travel Coordination Permit or (PCP) Travel Authorities and QR codes which quickly generates real-time reports needed. Despite the use of the mobile app the police

deployment will continue to ensure strict public adherence to the implementation of minimum public health and safety protocols (Cajala, 2020).

The researchers aimed to determine the challenges encountered by the PNP into Misamis Occidental that may significantly impact the number of COVID-19 cases in the province. The researcher receives a lot of negative feedbacks regarding travel protocol.

Thus, this ignites the researchers to study this issue about the effectiveness of S-pass as mandated by the IATF and implemented by the Philippine National Police (Martinelli, 2021).

## **2. Materials and Methods**

A descriptive qualitative research design was employed in the study. This design involved description, analyzing and interpreting the conditions that exist for the situation. This was also a correlation study which investigating and find out the relationship between the responds. This research decision could be made for improving, maintaining, and rejecting the focus making it effective and efficient. The study conducted at Liloan Border, Bonifacio, province of Misamis Occidental, Northern Mindanao (Region X) near the tambulig Zamboanga Del Sur Border. This represented 6.30% of the total population of Bonifacio. Wherein the police officers will check the specific requirements needed to cross the border. And also the study conducted at the Philippine Port Authority located in Panguil Bay, 4RRW+337, Port Area beside the birhen sa Cotta Ozamiz City, Misamis Occidental.

The study consists of a total of 10 participants who are PNP personnel in Liloan Border and Ozamis Port. The researchers purposive choose five participants every border at Misamis Occidental. The participants were interviewed under the following criteria: 1) experience with implementing the border entrance requirements, 2) Difficulties encountered in performing the duties, 3) Common excuse upon entering the border.

As we interviewed the PNP personnel both border the liloan and ozamis port they are all agreed and voluntarily participated in the study.

The study used interview guide question as the main instrument to gather the data needed for the study. Part I. Respondents Profile which are formulated by the researchers that deals with the profile of the respondents such as Age, Civil Status, Gender and Length of Service. Also consisting Part II. Core Questions and Part III. Terminating Questions as an interview guide.

The data collection was done seriously with precaution to the minimum health standard protocol in order to obtain the reliable information from the identified participants who are police officers assigned in every border in Misamis Occidental. Before the researchers conduct the interview with the identified participants, the researchers asked permission first from the Dean of the College of Criminology of the university allowing the researchers to pursue the study and to conduct the interview through formal letter. Once the approval from the dean is obtained, the researchers asked permission from those Law Enforcement who are assign in that area. Upon obtaining the necessary permissions, the researchers identified the participants of the study. The researchers set an appointment to the identified participants and proposing the schedule of the interview. The researchers informed the participants

that the conversation is recorded and gave them an assurance that all their responses in the interview are kept with utmost confidentiality. After that, the data were analyzed and presented.

### 3. Results and Discussions

This part presented the different themes that were derived from the different responses of the participants of the study during the conduct of the interview. It is evident in the study that our participants were PNP officer in the border, they are the one assigned in the area and the researcher conducted an interview about the requirements needed in border entry.

Further, based on the responses of the participants of the study, there were four themes identified such as (1) Non-compliance to Border Entry ((2) Encountered Travelers bringing Forged document requirements (3) Professionalism in handling Arrogant Travelers (4) Adhering to Border and protocol Requirements in Travelling.

**Table 1.** Profile of the Participants

Code Name	Age	Civil Status	Gender	Length of Service
P1	26	Single	Female	3 years
P2	26	Single	Female	3 years
P3	27	Single	Female	5 years
P4	36	Single	Male	11 years
P5	40	Married	Male	14 years
P6	30	Married	Male	6 years
P7	25	Single	Male	4 years
P8	26	Single	Male	3 years
P9	26	Single	Male	3 years
P10	28	Single	Male	4 years

#### 3.1. Non-compliance to Border Entry

The non-compliance to border Entry Most governments have implemented special *entry* and exit restrictions and requirements for their territory due to *COVID-19*. Not all travelers were already vaccinated that is why they are held in the border and sent it back where they from (Nivette, 2021).

These are evident in the results of the interview conducted.

Participants	Response
Participant 1	“We encountered the passengers have no documents like vaccine card and valid ID”
Participant 2	“The common violation in the border entry has no requirements and common excuses like they forgot to bring vaccine card”

Participant 4	“Many passengers will travel and some of it is has no vaccine taking risk of being arrogant”
Participant 5	“Many travelers have no requirements like vaccination card and valid ID; the common violation in the border they forgot to bring their vaccine card and some are have no valid ID”

While in public know the importance of involving community partners in programs, the Police officers also know how difficult it is to do. The challenge of involving the community is especially difficult if one has been trained, The Police officers been trained, to be an arrogant, elitist prima donna. I am the expert after all, and I help people by sharing my expertise (Leonard Syme, 2003).

The first identified theme that most violation is non-compliance to border entry the reason they forgot to bring the vaccine card or showing arrogant to our officer in the border because of that reason for having no compliance to give in border. But our officer is still doing their job for maintaining their patience in every traveler they encountered.

### ***3.2. Encountered Travelers bringing Forged document requirements***

The document or segmenting the signature from the document to look for who has forged by checking the requirements in border by the Police officers assigned in border.

These are evident in the results of the interview conducted.

Participants	Response
Participant 4	“Some of its violation is using a fake vaccine card able them to cross in border specially night time”
Participant 9	“Also, fake travel authority and fake negative antigen test result and ride on panels without papers or requirements”
Participant 10	“As the Police officer, we have experience difficulties because there are some people who cross the border bringing fake travel authority and fake negative antigen test”

Fake and counterfeit vaccines card in the border will be hold in the border to answer some question. They get the fake vaccine card through online about getting the card. Paired tests showed in borderline significant difference many as fake anti gen test have been found in border in tracing who is the maker of this forged documents (Wirtz VJ & Hogerzeil HV, 2022).

The third identified theme Encountered Travelers bringing Forged document requirements many travelers have the courage to proceed in border bringing the fake documents, but the police officer did not tolerate this kind of issue. Our vaccination Center is always available for giving those people who had not yet vaccinated.

### 3.3. *Professionalism in handling Arrogant Travelers*

The Professionalism in handling Arrogant Travellers the Police officers have special training in controlling their emotion on people who are very arrogant they used their maximum tolerance for undergoing basic technical skills training These are evident in the results of the interview conducted.

Participants	Response
Participant 1	“We handle people who are arrogant in the border, as a police officer we carried away by our emotion as what I have said patience is a virtue. The things /situation affect to me as officer and as civilian always apply respect even you are police or a civilian”
Participant 3	“We handle this kind of people who are arrogant always put in our mind that we are police and our job is protect and serve our people”
Participant 2	“We cope or overcome these challenges by explaining the protocol that we enforce. We handle arrogant people apply maximum tolerance”
Participant 4	“To overcome or cope this challenges is having a good character for yourself and be more patience to everyone. To handle arrogant people always show to them the respect and put on your mind that you are an officer you all need is giving them the information by explaining from it”
Participant 5	“To overcome or cope these challenges is having a good character for yourself and be more patience to everyone. To handle arrogant people always show to them the respect and put on your mind that you are an officer you all need is giving them the information by explaining from it”

Someone being at once intellectually arrogant because of self-confidence and ability to speak. Arrogant people expect to be admired, praised, indulged, and obeyed. They expect to be successful in everything they do. But the officer will never be put his feet on the ground by this kind of people. Always put in mind that an officer will not be level on a civilian only with an arrogant personality.

The third identified theme professionalism in handling arrogant travelers that kind of person want only to recognize for their wrong doing or they have only pursued their right but as a civilian we always give our respect to our officer in charge in border they only doing their job as they have protocol to followed.

### 3.4. *Adhering to Border and protocol Requirements in Travelling*

The Adhering to Border and protocol Requirements in travelling crossing the borders must be advance in searching what are the requirements needed in the border to able avoid hassle to your trip (Mau, S. 2010).

These are evident in the results of the interview conducted.



Participants	Response
Participant 1	“To minimize this occurrence or issue must follow the protocols and the law that implemented”
Participant 2	“To minimize this issue or occurrence bring all the requirements that are needed in the border to less hassle in your trip”
Participant 3	“To minimize this occurrence be responsible enough to know the requirements needed in border”
Participant 4	“To minimize the occurrence of this challenges and issue we need to make a public information in regards for the requirements needed in the border to avoid misinformation during in checking the requirements in the border”
Participant 5	“To minimize occurrence of this challenges or issue always give respect to everyone and be more informed by checking or updating in social media about the requirements needed in the border”

Activities occurring outside what is knowable to authorities must always updated in the community (Wilson, J. Q. 2009). Border is to try to stop or regulate that flow of information because of being late in updating the people or something lock of signal in other areas.

The fourth identified theme adhering to border and protocol requirements in Travelling being a citizen we must also do our part by knowing to our surrounding what happen or always updated in the news or in post through social media. Our Police officers assign in border is only doing their job of what the province told to them. For able us traveler to avoid hassle trip in the border.

#### **4. Conclusions**

There were several problems or issues encountered by the PNP in the border majority is having no requirements as the same time against by their religion or having a doctor’s advices as reasons against vaccination. As the researcher conduct this study, they seen the efforts of the PNP in enforcing the law by maintaining their patience towards from the passengers who have arrogant attitude. But in the other hand they already know that every passenger entering the border line they have vaccination cards in order for them to pass through. The IATF is no longer strict about the protocol and they also know lots of the travelers are already vaccinated.

#### **5. Recommendations**

The study in the non-compliance in border many have not yet getting vaccinated but the IATF issue in the border to have free vaccination in the area, some of the travelers will not proceed in the province if they have no requirements needed in border. When police officers meet fake documents at the border, they check the requirements carefully to ensure that the documents are fabricated, and then hold and question the maker of the falsified document in order to track and identify the perpetrator and impose a penalty.

In handling arrogant people in border by the Police officer many times they encountered that kind of personality, they trained to become professional in handling that kind of situation, by using the maximum tolerance in controlling their emotion. Always show respect by talking calmness and explaining the situation. In adhering to border and protocol requirements in travelling the travelers suggested by the Police officer to inquire through online what the requirements are needed in the border.

It is advised that police officers perform in preserving the protocol given by the province of Misamis Occidental, by assuring passengers entering the province that they will issue the necessary requirements at the border.

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#### **Competing Interests Statement**

The authors declare no competing financial, professional and personal interests.

#### **Consent for publication**

Authors declare that they consented for the publication of this research work.

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