



THE PREVALENCE OF VIOLATION OF THE ANTI-CATTLE RUSTLING LAW OR PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 533 IN CAGAYAN

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ABSTRACT: *The government initiates the conduct of training and seminars aimed at capacitating cattle raisers in the production of quality cattle. It aims further to transfer technologies to local farmers on how to raise quality and high breed cattle which is in demand in the international market. It encourages and helps farmers and other individuals to venture on cattle raising as the country has vast pasture lands viable for mass cattle production. Cattle raising is one of the investments with high probability of return of investment which improve the quality of livelihood they have for the benefit of their families and the economy of the country. The conduct of this research aimed to determine the prevalence of violation of the Anti-Cattle Rustling Law (PD 533) in Cagayan for calendar years 2014 and 2015. The researchers came out with the conclusion that awareness of the citizens on the provisions of the law resulting from the information dissemination of law enforcers has caused low number of violations of the law and therefore recommend recommended that the approach to make the people aware of the law should be sustained and should reach the remotest barangay of every municipality.*

Keywords: *Cattle, PD 533, Cattle raisers, Rustling, Pasture, Prevalence, High breed cattle*

INTRODUCTION

Presidential Decree No. 533 was enacted to provide some guidelines to regulate actions of every individual for the benefit of everyone. It provides some restrictions that one must follow. Every violation committed is provided with the corresponding penalty which serves as a defense of the oppressed. The degree of violation has a commensurate penalty of imprisonment and/or fine and the purpose of which is to deter wrongdoers to commit further violations and warn would-be violators on the effects once laws are ignored.

It is expected that implementers of the different laws must be aware of its provisions. In case ignorance of such laws is claimed, alternative measures to lessen its violation shall be



undertaken. Information dissemination and proper coordination among the law enforcement agencies are essential to maximize full implementation of the law to counteract violations which commence from the registration of cattle within the prescribed period provided by law, providing proper documentation and issuing clearance from the authorized office or unit.

Via jar (2013) posts that, cattle rustling in Philippines stems from the presence of conflict caused by the breakdown of governance, high poverty and proliferation of light firearms. The persistence of cattle-rustling in Philippines is attributed to political incitements. For example, intense political rivalries sometimes result into cattle rustling after elections, whereby cattle raids are directed against the communities of winning political leaders to show ineffective governance and control of the area. The striking similarity between cattle rustling in Philippines and Kenya are the factors that promote cattle rustling for example proliferation of small arms. However understanding new tendencies of cattle rustling and their relative implication to the society is central to this research.

Kakande and Nalwadda (2013) also noted that facilities such as classrooms and furniture were grossly inadequate and consequently affected the quality of education. Past studies have shown that some circumstances prevailing outside the education system that may influence its functioning. These include peace, war, poverty, poor economic base and poor policies, among others. A situation analysis of children and women in Tanzania and Rwanda (UNICEF, 2014), for instance, noted that poor performance in education was due to a poor economic base that does not adequately support the education system. This view was shared by Kakande and Nalwadda, (2013), who noted that the high incidence of cattle rustling and poverty, especially in Northern Uganda, was partly responsible for poor quality of education because of the inability of the parents to provide scholastic materials for their children.

High prevalence and use of guns are the principal factors underlying Pokot and Marakwet cattle rustling (Cheserek, et al., 2012). Traditional values only accounted for 8% of the cattle rustling. This implies that the decline in traditional bases of cattle rustling and the rise in modern facets accounts for cattle rustling. Traditional cattle rustling was laden with rules governing its conduct such as theft of cattle, capture of women and children without murder and destruction of property. For instance, between 1960s-1980s only six cases of



murder during cattle rustling were recorded, but again it is highly doubted they were a direct result of cattle rustling but individual differences. Rustling for commercial purposes, political incitement, poverty, traditional values and women were factors that explain the surge in cattle rustling (Cheserek, et al., 2012).

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The conduct of this research aimed to determine the prevalence of violation of the Anti-Cattle Rustling Law (PD 533) in Cagayan for calendar years 2014 and 2015. Specifically, it sought answers to the following questions:

1. What is the prevalence of violation of PD 533 for calendar years 2014 & 2015?
2. What actions are being undertaken by the law enforcement agencies to curb the violation of PD 533?

STATISTICAL TOOL

The information and data that were gathered through the different techniques were organized, tabulated and collated for analysis and interpretation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1 Prevalence of Violation of PD 533

Municipalities	Number of Violations Reported		Total
	2014	2015	
amulung	1	-	1
baggao	1	-	1
enrile	1	-	1
gattaran	1	-	1
gonzaga	1	-	1
iguig	1	-	1
lallo	1	-	1
lasam	1	-	1
penablanca	1	-	1
Piat	1	-	1
rizal	1	1	2
solana	2	-	2
Sta. teresita	1	1	2
Sto. nino	1	-	1
tuao	-	1	1
tuguegarao	1	2	3
Total	16	5	21

Table 1 presents the data on the prevalence of violation on the Anti-Cattle Rustling Law of the Philippines (PD 533). As gleaned from the table, Tuguegarao city has the most number



of reported cases. For 2014, it has 1 and for 2015, it has 2, followed by the municipalities of rizal, Solana and sta. teresita with 2 violations each while most towns of the province have only one (1) reported violence respectively. The few number of cases in the province of Cagayan would show that citizens of the province are aware of the consequences of violating PD 533, thus resulting to less number of cases.

Table 2 Actions Taken by Law Enforcement Agencies to Lessen the Prevalence of Violation of PD 533

Actions Undertaken	Rank
Information Dissemination on the provisions of PD 533	1
Giving or distribution of fliers about PD 533	4
Strict implementation of the law	3
Posting of tarpaulins on strategic areas	5
Coordination with other law enforcement agencies	2

Table 2 presents the actions undertaken by law enforcement agencies to lessen the prevalence of violation of PD 533. As presented in the table, “information dissemination on the provisions of PD 533” was ranked number 1 by the respondents. Ranked number 2 “coordination with other enforcement agencies” while “strict implementation of the law” ranked third. The data imply that getting closer to the people in the community will build rapport and a way to disseminate salient features of the law.

CONCLUSION

From the findings of the study, it is concluded that awareness of the citizens on the provisions of the law resulting from the information dissemination of law enforcers has caused low number of violations of the law.

RECOMMENDATIONS

From the findings and conclusion, it is recommended that the approach to make the people aware of the law should be sustained and should reach the remotest barangay of every municipality.

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