

THE IMPACT OF HIGH POLICE VISIBILITY IN RESPONDING TO CRIME IN MAPULANG LUPA, VALENZUELA CITY

ABSTRACT

AUTHORS

Sarah Gampong
Jubel Longa
Isabela Andrea San Felipe
Wilyn Suano
Rhea Yap

RESEARCH ADVISER

Irene D. Gaviola, MSCJ

AFFILIATION

Bestlink College of the
Philippines

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This study examined the impact of high police visibility on crime response in Mapulang Lupa, Valenzuela City. Anchored on the Routine Activity Theory, which emphasizes that crime occurs when a motivated offender, a suitable target, and the absence of a capable guardian converge, the research highlighted the importance of police presence as a form of capable guardianship. The study focused on how visible policing strategies, such as regular patrols, checkpoints, and police presence in strategic areas, influence crime prevention, response time, and the level of trust and cooperation between the police and the community. A descriptive quantitative research design was used to systematically assess the perceptions and experiences of both law enforcers and residents. Data were gathered through survey questionnaires distributed to a total of 60 respondents, composed of 30 police officers assigned in the area and 30 residents of Mapulang Lupa. The survey measured key variables including perceived crime deterrence, efficiency of police response, visibility of officers in public spaces, and the community's level of confidence in law enforcement. The findings revealed that increased police visibility has a significant positive impact on crime deterrence. Respondents generally agreed that the consistent presence of uniformed officers, mobile patrol units, and checkpoints discourages potential offenders from committing crimes. Moreover, visible policing was associated with faster response time to incidents, as officers stationed or patrolling within the vicinity can immediately address emergencies and calls for assistance. The study also found that greater visibility enhances public trust, as residents feel safer and more secure when they frequently see police officers in their community. Despite these positive outcomes, several challenges remain evident. Limited manpower restricts the ability of the police to maintain continuous visibility in all areas. Insufficient resources, including patrol vehicles and communication equipment, further affect operational efficiency. Environmental factors such as poor street lighting also create opportunities for criminal activity, while limited community cooperation sometimes hinders effective crime reporting and information sharing.

RECOMMENDED CITATION

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