

EFFECTIVENESS OF OPLAN SITA IN APPREHENDING TRAFFIC VIOLATORS IN BARANGAY 185, MALARIA, CALOOCAN CITY

ABSTRACT

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KEYWORDS

*oplan sita, violation, police
visibility, road safety and
community cooperation*

ARTICLE ID

AASGBCPJMRA-AB13834

Traffic violations and road-related crimes remain a significant concern in urban areas of the Philippines, particularly in densely populated cities such as Caloocan City. The combination of rapid urbanization, growing vehicle ownership, and inadequate road infrastructure has led to increased traffic congestion, reckless driving, and frequent violations of traffic laws. Road-related crimes, including illegal motorcycle operations, theft, and unlawful possession of firearms, also contribute to public insecurity and threaten overall road safety. These issues pose serious challenges to law enforcement agencies and local government units tasked with maintaining order, reducing accidents, and protecting citizens. This study used a quantitative descriptive research design, which allows for systematic observation and analysis of the variables related to Oplan Sita. The quantitative descriptive approach is particularly suitable for evaluating programs like Oplan Sita because it provides measurable data on police activity, traffic violations, and community perceptions while identifying trends, patterns, and correlations between variables. The study found that police visibility at checkpoints was moderately high, with 75% of respondents indicating that officers were consistently present during peak traffic hours. Observational data confirmed that checkpoints were established at strategic intersections, especially along main thoroughfares where traffic congestion was most severe. The presence of uniformed officers was observed to encourage voluntary compliance among motorists, particularly during daytime operations. However, 25% of respondents reported that checkpoints were sometimes inconsistent, with some areas left unmonitored during off-peak hours. This inconsistency contributed to gaps in enforcement and allowed certain motorists to repeatedly violate traffic laws without facing penalties. The findings suggest that Oplan Sita is partially effective in enhancing road safety, promoting compliance, and deterring criminal activity in Barangay 185. High police visibility and strategic placement of checkpoints contributed to voluntary compliance among motorists and reduced minor violations. This aligns with previous studies on community-based policing, which emphasize the importance of visible and professional law enforcement in achieving behavioral compliance.

RECOMMENDED CITATION

Collado, C., Gallano, J., Gandia, B., & Lachica, J. A. (2026). Effectiveness of Oplan Sita in Apprehending Traffic Violators in Barangay 185, Malaria, Caloocan City. *Ascendens Asia Singapore – Bestlink College of the Philippines Journal of Multidisciplinary Research Abstracts*, 8(5), 53.