



## PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING

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### ABSTRACT

*As the philosophy of policing shifts from a traditional to a community-based approach, its implementation needs to be assessed. The study determined the program implementation of community-oriented policing in the town of Dumingag Zamboanga del Sur and its effectiveness in crime reduction from 2014 to 2018. The study employed a descriptive-survey method with the questionnaire-checklist as the main instrument used in gathering the data and information. The survey questionnaire underwent an evaluation process by field expert and tested using Cronbach's alpha. Weighted Arithmetic Mean, Percentage and ANOVA were the statistical tools used in the data analyses. The participants were PNP, residents, and Barangay Officials of Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur. The results showed that PNP and Barangay officials perceived that the extent of community-oriented policing in Dumingag was implemented without lapses. However, residents rated that the implementation has minimal lapses. The study also revealed that there was a reduction of crimes committed for the past five years of the implementation. The result shows a significant difference among the perceived extent of implementation of the three groups of respondents.*

*Keywords: Criminal Justice, Community-oriented Policing, Program for Crime Reduction, Implementation of Policing, Quantitative, Philippines*

### INTRODUCTION

Community-oriented policing is an approach in which the police involve citizens in a working relationship to minimize crime and improve public safety by recognizing and reducing community conditions that promote crime (KASH, 2020; Moore, 1992). In specific communities, the role of police officers is very significant. It is because societies rely on police forces in which police are required, as a matter of policy, to "protect and serve" the community citizens. On the other hand, the police often rely on assistance and cooperation from the community. The problem is that the police and society's connection is not always harmonious, raising the crime rate. This is because people do

not have faith that the police are fair and impartial; while the police feel threatened by the citizens. The key elements for policing identified above are not new. The most recent version of neighborhood law enforcement is part of a much more extensive history of community-based policing programs established in various countries for more than three decades (Lloyd et al., 2009).

The police alone cannot be responsible for community protection and the quality of life. Law-abiding citizens need to take some responsibility for their communities and neighborhoods. Therefore, the police need the citizens they serve in the policing process, and the police must take part in the citizen process. Such cooperation between law enforcement and



the community enables more comprehensive solutions to emerging neighborhood problems, instead of the police merely focusing on law enforcement (Schlosser, 2020).

The Community-oriented policing strategy uses the fundamental concept— Police are the public and the public are the police (Principle # 7, Sir Robert Peel, the father of the British Police System). It is a law enforcement principle that allows any member of the society to practice self-policing, restrain other members from doing actions that can injure each other, and require other members to participate in orderly contact. Requiring group members to obey such orderly interactions means specific adherence to a set of laws or shared values and goals of the group (Philippine National Police, 2012).

An emphasis on community-based policing services was to help improve the public's confidence in the police and other law enforcement agencies. Community-based policing improves linkages between the police and the community and enhances public trust, community engagement, and productivity in protecting life, property, and human rights for the police and other law enforcement sectors (United Nations Police, n.d.). Police-community relations is a slowly evolving police system that is being adopted by police organizations all over the world (Philippine National Police, 2012).

Community policing is both an operational and conceptual approach that allows the police and community to work together to address crime, disorder and safety issues and enhance the quality of life for those in the community (OSCE, 2011; Philippine National Police, 2012). Community policing cannot thrive without the help of a public that is often suspicious of the police and other state officials. Police-community relations are a slowly developing police structure implemented by police departments all over the world. Diplomacy can be compared to this police system so that even those engaged in police action see the system as the most acceptable form of police-community interaction with the crime, as a guarantee of public safety, or as a guarantee of peace and security (Ungar & Arias, 2012).

Effective community-oriented policing and crime prevention is the product of a relationship between the neighborhood and its law enforcement authorities. A significant part of this relationship is the people's view of the police — their professionalism, fairness, and genuine involvement in helping, supporting, and collaborating for the people. When neighborhood members have good views of, and confidence in, their local police, they are more likely to turn to and cooperate with the police to deter and address crimes (Buchner et al., 2008).

Moreover, citizens are crucial in providing police with the evidence necessary to solve the crime and the knowledge to prevent it. However, poor relations between community members and police can lead to distrust, anger, and fear. Citizens may think the police are prejudice. Police may feel the blame for all sorts of social issues, and they may think they don't deserve credit for doing their work. Dialogue to change programs help people build trusting relationships necessary for long-term change. Citizen engagement stresses that it is vital to the success of the criminal justice system. It reflects on the importance of, and solutions for, productive police-community relations and discusses the internal and external cultures that the police represent (Hunter, 2011).

As such, further studies should concentrate on the advancement of this reasoning paradigm and the recognition of appropriate methods that come from a community-based policing culture. The police's contact with people is unlikely to be sufficient to deter crime. Specific tactics such as problem-oriented policing intervention can mediate the links between community involvement and control of crime (Gill et al., 2014).

While community-oriented policing became one of the strategies applied in curbing criminality, the Philippine National Police (PNP) was on its way to transforming the department into a more capable, efficient, and trustworthy police force as the department's critical thrusts over the next few years. The system of policing utilized by the PNP was guided by the police-



community relations manual (Philippine National Police, 2012), which stipulates the actions to be taken to by the PNP in implementing the community-oriented policing in the Philippines.

Thus, this matter's challenge has been directed to determine how community-oriented policing was implemented in the local Philippine setting. With the growing demand for more criminological research, this issue will look at how community-oriented policing can effectively reduce crimes in the town of Dumingag Zamboanga del Sur. Therefore, it is essential to draw a clear conclusion and generalize the population applying the analysis of five years of recorded crimes in the town and the implementation of community-oriented policing to determine its effectiveness in curbing crimes.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study was conducted to 1) present the profile of the respondents including, age, gender, marital status, and educational attainment 2) determine the extent of program implementation of community-oriented policing in terms of patrol activities, organizational work, and community interaction; 3) present the crime profile of the municipality for the last five years; and 4) test the difference on the response on the extent of implementation of community-oriented policing among the three groups of participants.

### METHODOLOGY

This study utilized the quantitative-descriptive type of research. This method is the most appropriate to ascertain the respondents' profile in each variable to be considered in this study. The researchers used quantitative research for this study to determine the extent of program implementation of community-oriented policing in terms of patrol activities, organizational work, and community interaction in the town of Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur. This study was conducted in 2019.

The statement of the problem presented guided the researchers on the flow of the research. Random sampling was then employed to the identified group of respondents. The

respondents of this study were the Police Officers, 30 Barangay officials and 30 residents of Dumingag Zamboanga del Sur.

This study's questionnaire was taken from the Police Community Relation Manual (2012) which composed of two parts: Part I: Profile of respondents in terms of age, gender, marital status, and educational attainment, and Part II contained statements on the activities done about community policing. The research Instrument was presented to the Municipal Chief of Police in Dumingag and three experts in the field for their comments and suggestions. The revision was then incorporated based on the suggestions given. Pilot testing was done and analyzed using Cronbach's Alpha. The data on crime for 2014 to 2018 was secured from the municipal police station's crime statistics section with the Municipal Chief of Police's approval.

Following the survey instrument's validation, a letter requesting permission was sent to the Chief of the PNP in Dumingag and to the Barangay Captains' office to classify randomly selected barangays to approve the data collection. During the data gathering, the researcher explained the purpose of the study and the survey instrument's content and the confidentiality of their responses. Further, it was made clear to the respondents that their participation is voluntary and that they have the right to refuse to participate in the survey.

The data gathered was statistically analyzed using the following: 1) percentage and frequency for the profile of the respondents; 2) weighted arithmetic mean was used to determine the extent of program implementation and its effectiveness to crime reduction and their program implementation of community-oriented policing; and 3) ANOVA or Analysis of Variance to determine the significant difference on the perceived extent of implementation of community-oriented policing among the three groups of respondents. To be impartial in the diagnosis of the research issue, the researcher evaluated the hypothesis at a level of five percent significance. If the measured F-value is equal to or greater than the critical F-value at a five percent level of significance, the researchers will reject the null hypothesis, and if the value is



lower than the computed critical t-value at a five percent level of significance, rejection of the null hypotheses will be done. The data were

analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 22.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**1. Profile of the Respondents**

**Table 1**  
*Demographic Profile in Terms of Age*

Age	PNP		Residents		Barangay Officials		Total %
	F	P(%)	F	P(%)	F	P(%)	
20 yrs. old and below			8	26.66			8.89
21-30	12	48.00	7	23.33	3	10.00	27.11
31-40	13	52.00	8	26.66	6	20.00	32.89
41-50			4	13.33	10	33.33	15.55
			3	10.00	11	36.66	15.55
<b>Total</b>	25		30		30		100

Table 1 presents the distribution of the respondents' ages. For the PNP, majority were aged 31-40 years old or 52 percent of the total number of respondents belong to the group. For the residents many of the respondents were aged 21-30 years old. While many of the barangay officials were aged 41-50 years old

with 36.66 percent of the identified group. The overall result shows that many of the respondents' ages ranged from 21-30 years old with 32.89 percent followed by 20 years old and below with 27.11 percent of total number the respondents.

**Table 2**  
*Demographic profile in terms of Gender*

Gender	PNP		Residents		Barangay Officials		Total
	F	P(%)	F	P(%)	F	P(%)	
Male	14	56.00	19	63.33	16	53.33	57.55
Female	11	44.00	11	36.37	14	46.67	42.35
<b>Total</b>	25		30		30		100

Table 2 shows the gender distribution of the respondents. Majority of the respondents were male with 57.55 percent, while female got 42.35 percent of the respondents. Based on the Atlas World Data (2015), the male to female ratio in the Philippines was 101.31 males per 100 women in

2015, down from 101.78 males per 100 males in 2010, which is a 0.46 percent decrease. Thus, it implies that the male ratio to female respondents in this study does not deviate much from the country's actual population.



**Table 3**  
*Demographic profile in terms of Marital Status*

Marital Status	PNP		Residents		Barangay Officials		Total
	F	P(%)	F	P(%)	F	P(%)	P(%)
Single	4	16.00	10	33.33	4	13.33	20.89
Married	21	84.00	15	50.00	26	86.66	73.36
Widow/er			4	13.33			4.45
Separated/ Annulled			1	3.33			1.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>		<b>30</b>		<b>30</b>		<b>100.00</b>

Table 3 shows the distribution of the marital status of the respondents. Majority of PNP officers (84.00 percent), the residents (86.66 percent) and Barangay Officials (73.36 percent) were married.

**Table 4**  
*Demographic profile in terms of Educational Attainment*

Educational Attainment	PNP		Residents		Barangay Officials		Total
	F	P (%)	F	P (%)	F	P (%)	P (%)
Elementary Graduate			4	13.33	10	33.33	15.55
High School Graduate			13	43.33	9	30.00	24.44
College level			10	33.33	9	30.00	21.11
College Graduate	25	100.00	3	10.00	2	6.67	38.90
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>		<b>30</b>		<b>20</b>		<b>100.00</b>

Table 4 shows the educational attainment of the participants. The officers of the Philippine National Police (PNP) were all college graduates, and none went to graduate school. As to the residents, most of them were high school graduates, with 43.33 percent of the respondents. While as to the barangay officials, many were elementary graduates. The overall result shows that among the respondents, many were college graduates at 38.90 percent, followed by high school graduates at 24.44 percent, college-level was 21.11 percent, and the least number were elementary graduates.

This implies that there is an identical distribution of respondents in terms of educational attainment. A slight difference was observed; however, it is a marginal portion of the total population. This result was strengthened by the Philippines’ literacy rate for 2015 was 98.18%, a 1.78% increase from 2013 (Micro Trend, n.d).

## 2. Assessment on the Extent of Program Implementation of Community-Oriented Policing

### 2.1 In terms of Patrol Activities

Table 5 shows the patrol activities relative to the community-oriented policing implementation in Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur. The result revealed that the highest conducted community-oriented related to patrol activities as rated by the PNP officers and barangay officials were conducting traffic direction, and control with weighted arithmetic mean of 3.88 and 3.87 adjectival equivalent of fully implemented, interpreted as implemented without lapses. The residents considered the patrol activities that police undergo, fixed and mobile checkpoints as fully implemented with WAM of 3.63 interpreted as implemented without lapses. The overall mean of 3.63 suggests that patrol activities related to community-oriented policing were fully implemented without lapses.



**Table 5**  
*Patrol Activities*

Patrol Activities	PNP			Residents			Barangay Officials			Overall Mean		
	WAM	AE	I	WAM	AE	I	WAM	AE	I	WAM	AE	I
1. Police conduct traffic direction and control (to keep the movement of people and goods in an orderly manner and avoid potentials for conflict)	3.88	FI	IL	3.53	FI	IL	3.87	FI	IL	3.76	FI	I
2. Police undergo fixed and mobile checkpoints	3.80	FI	IL	3.63	FI	IL	3.73	FI	IL	3.72	FI	I
3. Police perform standing and watch duties (a visibility form of duty that is intended for the protection of essential public installations and establishments)	3.64	FI	IL	3.23	I	ML	3.60	FI	IL	3.49	FI	I
4. Police conduct beat patrol duties (a walk and observed duties to protect persons and property from being molested and burglarized by criminals)	3.80	FI	IL	3.43	I	ML	3.47	FI	IML	3.57	FI	I
<b>Overall Mean</b>	<b>3.78</b>	<b>FI</b>	<b>IL</b>	<b>3.46</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>IML</b>	<b>3.67</b>	<b>FI</b>	<b>IL</b>	<b>3.63</b>	<b>FI</b>	<b>I</b>

This shows that the police officers were relentless on their duties and responsibilities to protect the lives of the people performing their core function in patrol activities and improving the community-oriented policing activities. Moreover, as they increase their presence in public places, the residents and barangay official noticed their activities. It is rightful to assume that police officers strengthen their connection and relationship with the public by doing their tasks diligently in patrol activities in public places.

According to Benton Police Org (n.d.), the patrol is the backbone of the police organization. The best argument perhaps for the community policing field is that it provides the opportunity to strengthen police-citizens ties by sharing responsibility for addressing community issues. Police are more accessible and have more possibilities to communicate at a more intimate level with people. Gill and colleagues (2014) claim that when police communicate with citizens, it is more likely that the residents will think that the police were fairer and more

respectful of them and eventually trust the police officers. Moreover, it will help reduce the perception of disorder and increase the feeling of safety among citizens.

**2.2 In terms of Organizational Work**

Table 6 shows the organizational work of the police to implement community-oriented policing. The result shows that the PNP officers, residents, and barangay officials rated that the police organized anti-drug councils and movements with the weighted arithmetic mean of 3.80, 3.77, and 3.77 with an adjectival equivalent of fully implement interpreted as implemented without lapses. The overall mean of 3.22 indicates that the organizational work on community-oriented policing was implemented with minimal lapses.

The result reveals two of the identified programs, the livelihood cooperative and



supervision of sports clubs were partially implemented as rated by the police officer.

**Table 6**  
*Organizational Work*

Organizational Work	PNP			Residents			Barangay Officials			Overall Mean		
	WAM	AE	I	WAM	AE	I	WAM	AE	I	WAM	AE	I
1. The police organize Barangay Peace Keeping Action Teams (BPATS)	3.72	FI	IL	2.87	I	IML	3.63	FI	IL	3.41	FI	IL
2. The police organized anti-drug councils and movements.	3.80	FI	IL	3.77	FI	IL	3.77	FI	IL	3.78	FI	IL
3. The police handles council of elders	3.36	I	IML	2.93	I	IML	3.27	I	IML	3.19	I	IML
4. Police govern radio and social networking clubs.	3.68	FI	IL	3.13	I	IML	3.43	I	IML	3.41	FI	IL
5. The police coordinate with fire and disaster brigades.	3.72	FI	IL	2.93	I	IML	3.57	FI	IL	3.41	FI	IL
6. The police operate livelihood cooperatives.	2.16	PI	ISL	2.97	I	IML	3.07	I	IML	2.73	I	IML
7. The police supervises sports clubs.	2.08	PI	ISL	2.73	I	IML	3.13	I	IML	2.65	I	IML
<b>Overall Mean</b>	<b>3.22</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>IML</b>	<b>3.05</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>IML</b>	<b>3.41</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>IML</b>	<b>3.22</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>IML</b>

Police Organizations follow the concept of community-oriented policing to collaborate with society to solve local public safety concerns and adapt change in organization’s approach to facilitate these efforts (Diamond & Weiss, 2009). Thus, police officers’ involvement in sports and livelihood has no established methods to implement as it is a newly introduced concept of the policing procedure. This calls for review and evaluation of the organization’s programs to improve their community-oriented policing effort and strengthen the bond between them and the community

**2.3 In terms of Community Interaction**

Table 7 shows community interaction relative to community-oriented policing implementation. The result shows that the three topmost activities of the police in implementing community-oriented policing were: police visibility or presence to neutralize or drive out a larger group of insurgents or criminal gangs in the community was fully implemented with the weighted arithmetic mean of 3.72 as implemented with no lapses; conduct peripheral visit and forge relationships with the people in the area by conducting interpersonal dialogue,

establish rapport and offer friendship was fully implemented without lapses with weighted arithmetic mean of 3.60 as assessed by the residents; and police informs the community of various matters that affect their lives starting from issues involving peace and order, laws that affect their daily activities were also fully implemented without lapses with weighted arithmetic mean of 3.70 as assessed by the barangay officials. The overall mean of 3.37 suggests that the community interaction between the police and the community was practiced in Dumingag Zamboanga del Sur. Community interaction is vital in the implementation of community-oriented policing. In fact, the police can influence proximal outcomes such as citizen satisfaction and trust, which might set the scene for effective solution to problems, when establishing positive relationships with the community (Gill et al., 2014).

Meanwhile, it is essential to note that effective implementation involves police departments recognizing the principles behind citizen-focused policing and how best to execute it and ensure that everybody plays their part in this potentially disruptive phase (Lloyd et al., 2009).



**Table 7**  
*Community Interaction*

Community Interaction	PNP			Residents			Barangay Officials			Overall Mean		
	WAM	AE	I	WAM	AE	I	WAM	AE	I	WAM	AE	I
1. Police visibility or presence to neutralize or drive out a larger group of insurgents or criminal gangs in the community.	3.72	FI	IL	3.10	I	IML	3.23	I	IML	3.35	FI	IL
2. Conduct peripheral visits and forge relationships with the people in the area by conducting interpersonal dialogue, establish rapport, and offer friendship.	3.64	FI	IL	3.60	FI	IL	3.37	I	IML	3.54	FI	IL
3. Police educate the people in the community about the recent news that may capture their interest.	3.56	FI	IL	2.97	I	IML	3.37	I	IML	3.30	FI	IL
4. Police undergo interpersonal interaction that brings the police closer to the communities.	3.56	FI	IL	2.63	I	IML	3.53	FI	IL	3.24	I	I
5. Police inform the community of various matters that affect their lives, starting from issues involving peace and order, laws that affect their daily activities.	3.68	FI	IL	2.93	I	IML	3.70	FI	IL	3.44	FI	IL
<b>Overall Mean</b>	<b>3.63</b>	<b>FI</b>	<b>IL</b>	<b>3.05</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>IML</b>	<b>3.44</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>IML</b>	<b>3.37</b>	<b>FI</b>	<b>IL</b>

**3. Profile of Crime Rate of the Municipality From 2014 to 2018**

Figure 1 shows the crime rate profile in Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur, from Calendar Year 2014 to 2018.

As shown in the bar graph, during 2014, the top three most committed crimes were

violations of non-index crimes, which reached 32 cases followed by physical injuries with 20 recorded cases and violations of special laws with 12 committed incidences. In 2015, the three most committed crimes were murder, which hit 12 incidences, physical injuries with 11 recorded cases, robbery and other non-index crime, which both have 5 recorded incidences.



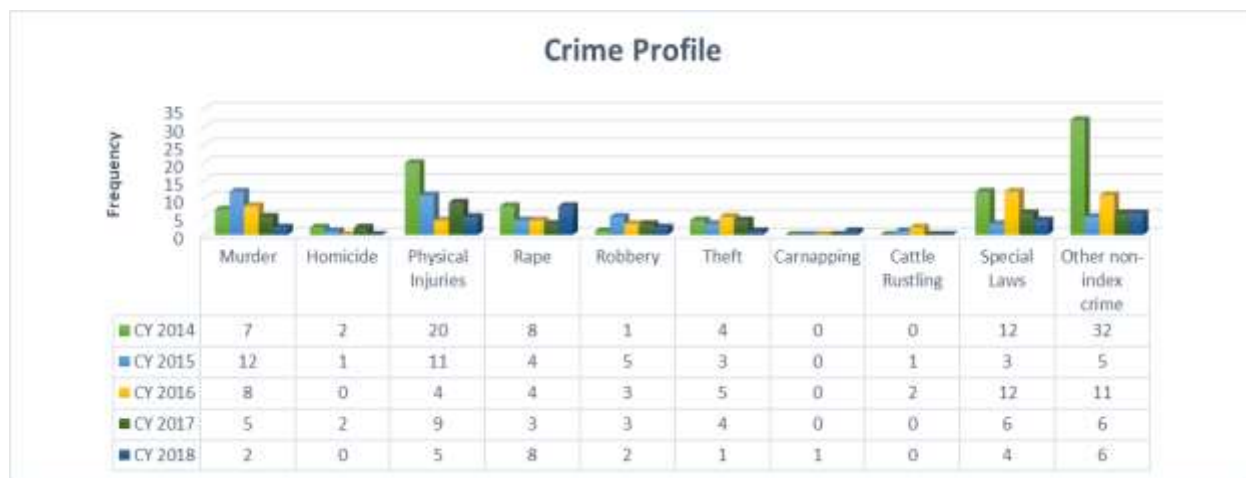


Figure 1. Crime Rate in Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur

By the year 2016, the three most committed crimes were violations of special laws that garnered 12 recorded incidences, followed by other non-index crimes that reached 11 cases and murder with 8 committed incidences. During 2017, the three most executed crimes were physical injuries with nine incidences, followed by violation of Special Laws and other non-index crime, which both obtained six recorded incidences and murder, which reached five incidences.

By the year 2018, the three most committed crimes were rape, which had eight incidences, followed by other non-index crimes that hit six recorded cases and physical injuries with five cases committed.

As a whole, the most committed crimes for the last five years were other non-index crimes with a total of 60 incidences followed by physical injuries with a total of 49, violation of

Special Laws with 37 cases, murder with a total of 34, and lastly, rape with the total of 27 recorded incidences. However, based from the data, there was a decline in the recorded crimes for the past five years.

Recent crime surveys indicate that physical injury, burglary, and robbery are the easiest and common crimes committed (Authority Philippine Statistics, 2018; Patalinghug, 2017). As the data shows, it can be deduced that the community-oriented policing implementation in the town of Dumingag may have a significant contribution to curbing criminality.

**4. Test of Difference on the Response on the Extent of Implementation of Community-Oriented Policing among the Three Groups of Respondent**

Table 7  
Analysis on the Difference

Extent of Implementation of Community-Oriented Policing	Computed	F-value		p-value	Decision
		Tabular			
PNP Residents Barangay Officials	3.83	3.20		0.029	Reject Ho

Table 7 presents the analysis of the significant difference in the perceived extent of implementation among the three groups of

respondents. ANOVA reveals that there was a significant difference in the mean rating for the extent of implementation when respondents



were grouped according to the sector (PNP, Residents, and Barangay Officials) with  $F(3.83) > F\text{-crit}(3.20)$ ,  $p(0.029) > 0.05$ .

## CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusions were drawn in light of the findings of this study:

1. The police officers in Dumingag are middle-aged adults, males, married, and have earned a degree. Moreover, the residents are young and middle-aged adults in their prime years and are both males and females. They are married and finished the secondary level of education. The Barangay Officials are in the golden years of their lives, males, married, and obtained elementary education.
2. The respondents believed that the community-oriented policing activities were fully implemented in the municipality of Dumingag. However, the respondents assessed that the organizational work needs some improvement as to implementation.
3. The crime rate in the town of Dumingag has reduced for the last five years when the community-oriented policing was implemented.
4. The result shows that a significant difference exists among the perceived extent of implementing community-oriented-policing of the three groups of respondents.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the findings and conclusions drawn out from this study, the following recommendations are offered:

1. The Chief of Police in the town may improve community relations by strengthening the activities on organizing sports and livelihood activities in partnership with the community stakeholders.

2. The police organization may improve the organizational work activities specifically on the community engagement to actively solicit input and citizens' participation in crime prevention activities.
3. The community may be made aware of their roles in curbing criminality by engaging them in drug use prevention programs, community-police patrol activities, and public education on the trends of crimes in the community.

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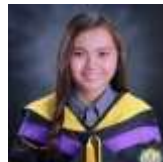
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