

Crime Pattern in The Province of LA Union: A Study on Index and Non-Index Crimes

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INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

Crime remains a major concern among Filipinos, particularly in urbanized areas where population density, economic activity, and mobility increase opportunities for criminal behavior. Over the years, fluctuations in crime rates have posed challenges to law enforcement agencies in maintaining peace and order. Despite the implementation of various crime control measures, the persistence of both index and non-index crimes suggests that enforcement alone is insufficient. As emphasized by Albos and Tizon (2021), crime prevention must adopt a more community-oriented and preventive approach, highlighting the importance of strategies such as neighborhood watch programs, barangay patrols, public awareness campaigns, and strengthened police community partnerships.

In the Philippine context, crime is defined as an act or omission punishable by law under the Revised Penal Code of the Philippines (Republic Act No. 3815), which provides the legal framework for defining criminal offenses and corresponding penalties (Navarro, 2010; Robles, 2015). Crimes are generally classified into index and non-index categories. Index crimes include serious offenses such as murder, homicide, rape, robbery, theft, and physical injuries, while non-index crimes refer to violations of special laws, including drug-related offenses and local ordinance violations. This classification allows law enforcement agencies to develop targeted and strategic approaches to crime prevention and control.

Globally, crime patterns vary depending on socio-economic conditions, level of development, and institutional capacity. In developed countries, the use of advanced technologies such as surveillance systems, data analytics, and predictive policing has contributed to the reduction of certain traditional crimes. However, emerging forms of criminality, including cybercrime and drug-related offenses, continue to pose challenges. In developing countries, rapid urbanization, poverty, unemployment, and weak institutional structures create conditions that allow both index and non-index crimes to persist (UNODC, 2023; World Bank, 2022).

In Southeast Asia, countries such as Thailand, Indonesia, and Malaysia face similar challenges, particularly in addressing drug-related crimes and corruption. These countries have adopted strategies that emphasize regional cooperation, intelligence sharing, and strengthening justice systems. However, issues such as limited resources, social inequality, and governance challenges continue to affect the effectiveness of crime control efforts.

In the Philippines, crime prevention is supported by national frameworks such as the PNP P.A.T.R.O.L. Plan 2030, which promotes proactive policing, community engagement, and data-driven strategies. These include crime mapping, hotspot analysis, and increased police visibility to improve response and deterrence. Despite these efforts, crime remains influenced by various factors such as poverty, unemployment, substance abuse, population growth, and weak social cohesion. In the local context of La Union, economic development, tourism, and urban expansion have contributed to shifting crime patterns. Increased mobility, commercial activity, and migration have influenced both index and non-index crimes. While recent reports indicate a decline in overall

crime volume, certain offenses particularly non-index crimes such as drug violations and ordinance-related offenses remain prevalent. Factors such as youth unemployment, substance abuse, limited awareness of laws, and inconsistent enforcement contribute to the persistence of these crimes.

Crime prevention efforts in La Union include intensified police visibility, checkpoint operations, Barangay Peacekeeping Action Teams (BPATs), and collaboration between local government units and law enforcement agencies. These strategies emphasize not only enforcement but also community participation and preventive measures.

Despite the availability of crime data and the implementation of various crime prevention strategies, there remains a limited localized analysis that integrates crime patterns, contributing factors, and the effectiveness of crime prevention programs in La Union. Most existing discussions focus on descriptive statistics without deeply examining underlying causes and contextual dynamics. This gap highlights the need for a more comprehensive and analytical study that combines quantitative and qualitative approaches.

Thus, this study aims to examine the pattern of index and non-index crimes in the Province of La Union from 2022 to 2024, analyze their trends and distribution, identify influencing factors, and evaluate the effectiveness of crime prevention strategies. Ultimately, the study seeks to provide evidence-based recommendations to improve public safety and strengthen crime prevention efforts in the province.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This study is guided on selected criminological theories that explain the occurrence of index and non-index crimes and provide a basis for analyzing crime patterns and evaluating crime prevention strategies in the Province of La Union.

First, Social Disorganization Theory (Shaw & McKay, 1942) posits that crime is more likely to occur in communities characterized by poverty, social instability, and weak institutional structures. When social cohesion and informal social control are weakened, communities become more vulnerable to criminal activities. In the context of this study, this theory explains the variation in crime incidence across different municipalities in La Union, particularly in areas experiencing rapid urbanization, economic inequality, or weak community participation. It is particularly relevant in analyzing the geographical distribution of crimes and identifying areas with higher crime concentration.

Second, Routine Activity Theory (Cohen & Felson, 1979) explains that crime occurs when three elements converge: a motivated offender, a suitable target, and the absence of a capable guardian. This theory is applicable in explaining patterns of both index and non-index crimes in La Union, especially in areas with high population movement, commercial activity, and tourism. The presence or absence of police visibility, barangay patrols, and community monitoring directly influences crime occurrence. Thus, this theory supports the analysis of crime frequency and the effectiveness of crime prevention strategies, particularly those related to patrol operations and community-based policing.

Third, Strain Theory (Merton, 1938) suggests that individuals may engage in criminal behavior when they are unable to achieve socially accepted goals through legitimate means. Economic hardship, unemployment, and limited opportunities create pressure that may lead individuals to commit crimes, particularly non-index crimes such as drug-related offenses, illegal gambling, and other violations of special laws. In this study, Strain Theory is relevant in examining the factors influencing crime, particularly socio-economic conditions in the Province of La Union.

Lastly, Rational Choice Theory (Cornish & Clarke, 1986) proposes that offenders make decisions based on a rational evaluation of risks and benefits. When the perceived risk of apprehension increases, the likelihood of committing a crime decreases. This theory is relevant in evaluating the effectiveness of crime prevention

strategies implemented by the Philippine National Police, such as checkpoint operations, police visibility, and hotspot policing. It explains how improved enforcement and increased risk of detection influence offender behavior and contribute to the reduction of certain crimes, particularly property-related offenses.

These theories collectively provide a comprehensive framework for understanding crime patterns in La Union by linking crime occurrence (frequency), spatial distribution (location), influencing factors (social and economic conditions), and crime prevention strategies (law enforcement and community interventions). Rather than viewing crime as an isolated phenomenon, the study recognizes it as a product of interconnected social, environmental, and institutional factors.

Furthermore, these theoretical perspectives are aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) No. 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, which emphasizes the importance of effective law enforcement, access to justice, and community participation in maintaining peace and order. In the context of this study, SDG 16 highlights the role of the Philippine National Police, local government units, and community stakeholders in implementing sustainable and inclusive crime prevention strategies.

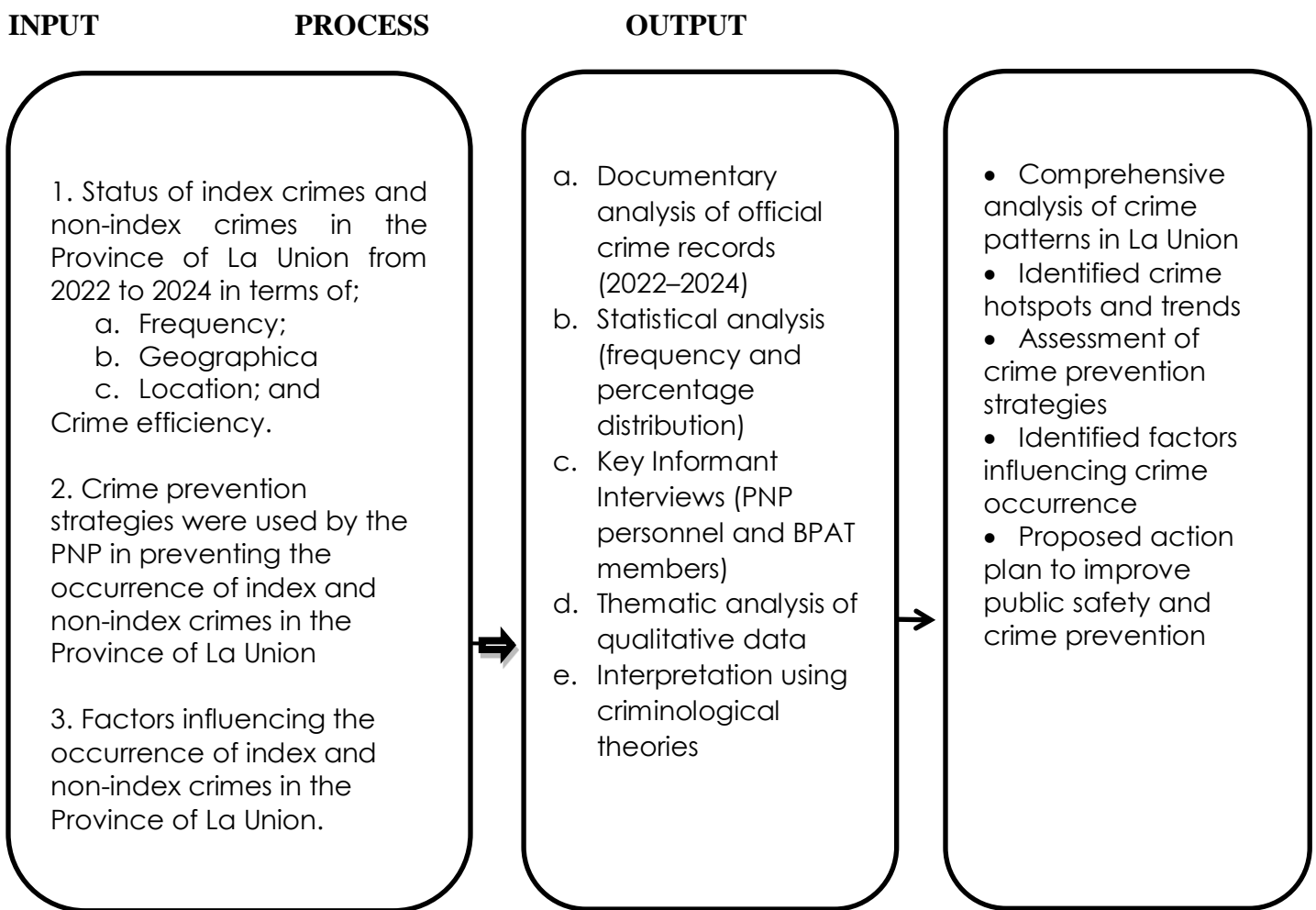


Fig. 1. The Research Paradigm

Statement of the Problem

This study aimed to analyze the crime pattern in the Province of La Union, specifically focusing on the occurrence of index and non-index crimes from 2022 to 2024.

Specifically, it sought to answer the following questions:

What was the status of index crimes and non-index crimes in the Province of La Union from 2022 to 2024 in terms of:

- a) Frequency;
 - b) Geographic allocation; and
 - c) Crime efficiency?
1. What crime prevention strategies were used by the Philippine National Police (PNP) in preventing the occurrence of index and non-index crimes in the Province of La Union?
 2. What factors influenced the occurrence of index and non-index crimes in the Province of La Union?
 3. What action plan could be proposed to improve public safety and enhance crime prevention activities in the Province of La Union based on the findings of the study?

Importance of the Study

Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). The study provided data that supported the improvement of policies and programs on crime prevention, particularly in supervising the PNP.

Philippine National Police (PNP). The analysis of crime patterns helped the PNP identify hotspots, allocate resources properly, and strengthen strategies in reducing index and non-index crimes.

Local Government Units (LGUs). The results served as a guide in crafting and enforcing local ordinances and strengthening coordination with the PNP through peace and order councils.

Community. Residents gained better awareness of crime trends, encouraging active participation in crime prevention and community safety programs.

Stakeholders and Policy Makers. The study provided evidence-based information to support policies, programs, and interventions addressing crime issues in the province.

Businesses and Local Economy. Improved public safety promoted business confidence, tourism, and economic development.

Media. The findings served as a reliable basis for accurate crime reporting and public awareness.

Researcher and Future Researchers. The study contributed to existing knowledge and served as a reference for future research in criminology and public safety.

Definition of Terms

This study defines the terms conceptually and operationally.

Barangay Peacekeepers This term broadly encompassed barangay officials, tanods, and community volunteers working together with the police to maintain peace and order at the grassroots level.

Challenge It referred to a difficulty, obstacle, or problem that had to be addressed or overcome during the conduct of the study.

Community Stakeholders These referred to individuals, groups, or organizations within a community who had a vested interest in public safety, crime prevention, and the overall well-being of their local area. These included local government officials, barangay leaders, law enforcement agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), religious institutions, educational institutions, business owners, and residents.

Crime Efficiency It referred to the effectiveness and speed with which law enforcement agencies, such as the PNP, responded to and resolved criminal incidents. It included the ability to prevent crimes, apprehend suspects, conduct investigations, and successfully file charges or close cases. In this study, crime efficiency also related to how well LGUs and police forces utilized their resources and strategies to reduce crime rates and maintain peace and order within their jurisdictions.

Crime Hotspot A geographic area where crime was concentrated and occurred more frequently compared to surrounding areas.

Crime Mapping. A technique in criminology that used Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to visually represent the locations and concentrations of criminal incidents.

Crime Pattern This referred to the trends, distribution, and frequency of criminal activities in a specific area over a particular period. Understanding crime patterns allowed law enforcement agencies to identify hotspots, allocate resources, and implement effective crime prevention strategies.

Crime Prevention Programs Initiatives designed to deter criminal behavior before it occurred. These included education campaigns, youth engagement activities, rehabilitation programs, and surveillance systems.

Crime Prevention Strategies Planned actions, policies, and programs implemented by law enforcement agencies, local government units (LGUs), and communities to reduce or deter criminal activities. These strategies included patrol operations, community policing, public awareness campaigns, enforcement of local ordinances, use of surveillance systems, and collaboration with barangay officials.

Factors These referred to various elements, conditions, or influences that contributed to the occurrence, prevention, or resolution of criminal activities. These included social, economic, environmental, political, and institutional aspects such as poverty, unemployment, police visibility, local governance, education level, and community involvement.

Frequency It referred to the number of times a particular event or activity occurred within a specific period. In this study, it pertained to how often index and non-index crimes were reported or recorded in the Province of La Union from January 2022 to December 2024.

Geographical Location This referred to the specific physical area or territory where events or activities occurred. In this study, it pertained to the municipalities and cities within the Province of La Union where index and non-index crimes were recorded and analyzed to determine spatial distribution and crime hotspots.

Index Crimes These were serious crimes commonly reported and recorded by law enforcement agencies. Index crimes included murder, homicide, rape, robbery, theft, and other violent offenses.

Non-Index Crimes These were less serious offenses typically considered violations of special laws, such as illegal drug possession, illegal gambling, and other regulatory violations.

Police Visibility The presence of law enforcement officers in public areas, which was believed to deter criminal activity and improve citizens' sense of safety.

Strategies In the context of crime prevention and public safety, these referred to coordinated efforts by law enforcement agencies, local government units, and community stakeholders to reduce criminal activity, improve response systems, and enhance community resilience.

These included crime mapping, community policing, public awareness campaigns, environmental design improvements, and inter-agency collaboration.

METHODOLOGY

This chapter presented the research design, population, and locale of the study, instrumentation and data collection, data analysis, and categorization of data used in this study.

Research Design

This study employed an Explanatory Sequential Mixed-Methods Design, in which quantitative data were collected and analyzed first, followed by qualitative data to further explain and deepen the initial results. This approach allowed the researcher to first identify measurable crime patterns in the Province of La Union and then explore the underlying reasons, contextual factors, and operational experiences behind those patterns. The goal was not only to present statistical findings but also to understand what those numbers meant in real situations, how crime affected communities, where it tended to happen, and what factors influenced its occurrence.

The descriptive design was used in the first phase of the study to analyze actual crime incidents without manipulating any variables. The study focused on reported crime incidents from January 2022 to December 2024, covering both index crimes (such as theft, robbery, and physical violence) and non-index crimes (such as drug violations and other offenses under special laws). Through the quantitative phase, statistical tools were used to determine trends, frequency, geographical distribution, and crime efficiency.

After analyzing the numerical data, the qualitative phase was conducted to further explain and interpret the findings. Interviews with Chief Investigators and selected members of the Barangay Peacekeeping Action Teams (BPATs) were carried out to gain deeper insights into crime prevention strategies, operational challenges, and factors influencing crime in the province. This second phase helped clarify the trends identified in the statistical analysis and provided contextual understanding of law enforcement responses and community involvement.

By following the explanatory sequential design, the study ensured that the quantitative results were supported and enriched by qualitative evidence, making the overall analysis more comprehensive, reliable, and meaningful for crime prevention planning in La Union.

Population and Locale of the Study

This study was conducted in La Union, a province located on the western coast of Northern Luzon in the Ilocos Region. It is composed of nineteen (19) municipalities and one (1) component city, San Fernando City. The province was chosen because of its mix of urban, rural, and coastal communities, making it suitable for analyzing different crime patterns across various environments.

The research was conducted to provide a clearer and more systematic understanding of index and non-index crimes in La Union from January 2022 to December 2024. While crime incidents were regularly recorded, there was a need to analyze these records more deeply to identify trends, locations, influencing factors, and the effectiveness of crime prevention strategies. This purpose aligned with the study's explanatory sequential design, where quantitative crime data were analyzed first, followed by qualitative insights to better explain the results.

La Union was intentionally selected partly because the researcher was officially assigned to the Philippine National Police (PNP) in the province. This assignment ensured direct access to accurate crime statistics, police records, and operational data. Such access strengthened the reliability and validity of the study and ensured that the findings were grounded in verified information.

The respondents included Chief Investigators from each city and municipality, as they were directly involved in handling criminal cases, analyzing crime reports, and implementing prevention strategies. Their professional experience provided reliable and detailed insights that helped explain the quantitative findings.

Additionally, selected members of the Barangay Peacekeeping Action Teams (BPATs) were interviewed to provide community-level perspectives. As frontline peacekeepers and first contacts during emergencies, they offered valuable insights into how crime prevention efforts were implemented at the grassroots level.

By combining official data and firsthand experiences from both law enforcement and community responders, the study ensured a comprehensive and balanced understanding of crime patterns and prevention efforts in La Union.

Table 1. Distribution of the Respondents

Respondents	Population
1. PNP Personnel	20
2. Barangay Peacekeepers	10
TOTAL	30

Data Gathering Tool

This study employed two principal data collection instruments to get both quantitative and qualitative data essential for the examination of crime trends and crime prevention strategies in the Province of La Union. The official police crime data and a certified semi-structured interview guide were the tools used.

The major way this study collected quantitative data was through the official crime records kept by the PNP in the Province of La Union. These records have documented cases of index and non-index crimes that were reported between 2022 and 2024. They included information about the crime's frequency, kind of offense, geographical location, and case status.

The crime records were a solid way to find out about crime patterns, figure out which locations had a lot of crime and which ones didn't, and measure how effective crime was. These records were official and kept in a methodical way, which made sure that the quantitative data used in the study was correct and trustworthy.

The qualitative data collection instrument was a semi-structured interview guide, meticulously designed to extract comprehensive information from key informants concerning crime prevention strategies, determinants affecting crime incidence, and obstacles faced by the PNP in the Province of La Union. The interview guide had open-ended questions that let people talk about their experiences, perceptions, and thoughts about law enforcement and community safety.

Members of law enforcement checked the interview guide for content validation to make sure it was clear, relevant, and in line with the study's goals. Before the interviews actually took place, the validators' suggestions were taken into account. This evaluation method made the interview questions more reliable and acceptable.

The interview guide was given to PNP officers, especially those who work in investigative and operational units, as well as members of the Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT), who are the first line of defense against crime in the community. The semi-structured method enabled the researcher to ensure uniformity across interviews while allowing respondents the freedom to offer comprehensive and contextually relevant answers.

To establish the validity of the research instruments, the interview guide was carefully reviewed through a validation process conducted by a panel of expert validators. These validators included the Chief of the

Provincial Operations and Management Unit of the La Union Provincial Police Office, the Chief of Police of Aringay Police Station, and the Chief Investigator of Bauang Police Station. Their professional assessment ensured that the content, structure, and relevance of the instrument were thoroughly examined.

The validation results yielded an average rating of 4.00, which corresponds to the descriptive equivalent of Highly Valid. This result indicates that the questionnaire is clear, well-organized, and relevant, and that the items are properly aligned with the objectives of the study.

Data Gathering Procedure

The researcher follows ethical procedures in conducting research. First, the researcher proposed his title for approval, then he sought the approval of the authorities of the PNP Provincial Director of the Province of La Union. The researcher sought approval from the Municipal Chief of Police for the conduct of interviews. After the approval of the research communications, the researcher gathered data and conducted a Key Informant Interview.

Data Analysis

Consistent with the Explanatory Sequential Design, the study analyzed data in two phases.

In the first phase, quantitative analysis was conducted. Frequency count was used to determine the status of index and non-index crimes in the Province of La Union from 2022 to 2024. This statistical tool allowed the researcher to identify the number of reported incidents, distribution across municipalities, and trends over time. The quantitative results provided a clear picture of crime patterns, including which crimes were most prevalent and where they frequently occurred. In the second phase, qualitative analysis was carried out to explain and interpret the quantitative findings. Thematic analysis was used to identify crime prevention strategies implemented by the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the factors influencing the occurrence of index and non-index crimes. Data gathered from audio-recorded interviews, documentation, and both formal and informal interviews were transcribed, organized, and examined to determine recurring themes and patterns.

The findings from the qualitative phase were presented narratively to provide deeper insight into the statistical results. By following the explanatory sequential approach, the study ensured that the numerical data were supported and clarified by professional and community perspectives, resulting in a more comprehensive understanding of crime patterns and prevention strategies in La Union.

Ethical Consideration

To comply with the ethical concerns of the research, the expressed consent of the respondents was obtained before the interviews were conducted. In-depth interviews were carried out as part of the qualitative phase of the study. The researcher conducted both formal and informal interviews with all respondents. Formal interviews were conducted face-to-face, where the researcher and the respondents met personally. Informal interviews were conducted through electronic mail and phone calls to clarify additional queries based on the respondents' statements during the formal interviews. Before conducting the interviews, the researcher explained the contents of the consent letter to the respondents. After the explanation, the respondents were individually asked to answer the questions. The identities of the respondents were kept confidential; thus, pseudonyms were used to protect their privacy.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presented the results and discussion of the study, providing a comprehensive examination of the status of index and non-index crimes in the Province of La Union from 2022 to 2024, along with the crime prevention strategies implemented by the Philippine National Police (PNP). Quantitative crime statistics were

integrated with qualitative data gathered from key informants to offer a comprehensive understanding of crime trends, police performance, and the overall level of public safety in the province.

Interviews with key informants revealed several significant factors influencing the prevalence and persistence of both index and non-index crimes. Socioeconomic conditions, particularly poverty and unemployment, were identified as major contributors to criminal behavior. Institutional challenges, including insufficient police personnel, limited patrol vehicles, and outdated communication equipment, were also cited as constraints that hinder effective crime prevention. Geographical limitations such as remote and mountainous barangays, poor road infrastructure, and limited transportation access were recognized as barriers to timely police response and sustained patrol operations. Additionally, governance-related issues, including inadequate funding, inconsistent support from local government units, and weak enforcement of local ordinances, further affected crime prevention efforts. Community-level concerns, such as low cooperation, fear of retaliation, and limited awareness of crime prevention mechanisms, were likewise identified as contributing factors. These findings illustrate the complex and interconnected nature of public safety challenges in La Union. The results indicate that crime prevention initiatives in La Union have been effective, particularly in reducing property-related crimes. However, violent crimes against persons continue to require focused, long-term, and coordinated interventions. The findings highlight the importance of sustained law enforcement efforts, strengthened community engagement, and collaborative action among the PNP, local government units, and other stakeholders to further enhance peace and order in the province.

The status of index and non-index crimes in La Union Province from 2022 to 2024

This section examines the status of index and non-index crimes in the Province of La Union from 2022 to 2024 in terms of frequency, geographical distribution, and crime solution efficiency. The analysis is based on officially recorded crime statistics obtained from police records and is supplemented by qualitative data gathered through interviews with key informants. The integration of quantitative and qualitative data provides a comprehensive assessment of crime trends and public safety conditions within the province.

An examination of crime statistics offers insights into the most prevalent offenses, their spatial concentration, and the effectiveness of law enforcement responses. Through this analysis, the study evaluates the performance of crime prevention programs implemented by the La Union Provincial Police Office and identifies areas where further intervention and strategic improvement may be necessary to sustain peace and order.

Status of index crimes in the Province of La Union from 2022 to 2024 in terms of Frequency

This section presents the frequency of index crimes recorded in the Province of La Union from 2022 to 2024. The discussion focuses on the number of reported cases for each type of index crime based on officially documented police records. Examining crime frequencies over a three-year period provides an overview of overall crime patterns and allows for the identification of trends, including increases or decreases in specific offenses.

The analysis of crime frequency serves as an important indicator of the province’s level of public safety and the effectiveness of existing law enforcement and crime prevention efforts. The findings presented in this section form the basis for understanding crime trends and evaluating the strategies implemented by the La Union Provincial Police Office in addressing index crimes.

Table 2 Status of index crimes in the Province of La Union from 2022 to 2024 in terms of Frequency

Nature of Offense	2022	2023	2024	Total	Percentage
Rape	52	85	68	205	38.90%
Theft	57	42	24	123	23.34%
Physical Injuries	27	17	15	59	11.19%

Robbery	30	10	16	56	10.63%
Murder	15	11	11	37	7.02%
Homicide	8	7	8	23	4.36%
Carnapping (MC)	9	6	4	19	3.61%
Carnapping (MV)	0	2	3	5	0.95%
Total per Year	198	180	149	527	100%

Table 2 indicate that the frequency of index crimes recorded in the Province of La Union from 2022 to 2024. The data show that rape recorded the highest number of cases (205), followed by theft (123), physical injuries (59), and robbery (56), while murder, homicide, and carnapping registered comparatively lower frequencies. This pattern indicates that crimes against persons, particularly rape, remain a significant public safety concern, while property-related crimes continue to pose challenges to peace and order in the province.

The fluctuation in rape cases, particularly the increase in 2023 followed by a decline in 2024, may be partly attributed to delayed reporting during the pandemic period, when restrictions limited victims' access to law enforcement agencies. As mobility improved, previously unreported incidents were formally recorded, contributing to the temporary increase. However, beyond reporting behavior, the persistence of such cases reflects deeper social issues.

From a theoretical perspective, this trend can be explained using Social Disorganization Theory, which posits that crime is more likely to occur in communities where social cohesion, informal control, and institutional support are weakened. In the context of La Union, factors such as population movement, tourism activities, and varying levels of community supervision may reduce social control mechanisms, increasing vulnerability to crimes against persons. This supports the view that such offenses are not merely individual acts but are influenced by broader social and structural conditions.

On the other hand, the declining trend in theft, robbery, and carnapping cases suggests improvements in crime prevention efforts. This reduction may be associated with intensified police visibility, checkpoint operations, and strategic deployment under programs such as the PNP P.A.T.R.O.L. Plan 2030. Through the lens of Routine Activity Theory, the increased presence of capable guardians such as police personnel and community patrols reduces opportunities for crime by increasing the risk of detection and apprehension. In La Union, enhanced patrol operations and monitoring systems likely disrupted criminal opportunities, particularly for property-related offenses.

Overall, while the total number of index crimes shows a gradual decline, the continued prevalence of violent crimes highlights the need for more comprehensive and targeted interventions. These should include not only strengthened law enforcement but also community-based programs, victim support services, and initiatives addressing underlying socioeconomic and cultural factors influencing criminal behavior.

Status of Non-Index Crimes in the Province of La Union from 2022 to 2024 in Terms of Frequency

This section presents the frequency of non-index crimes recorded in the Province of La Union from 2022 to 2024. The discussion focuses on the number of reported cases for each category of non-index crime based on officially documented police records. An examination of crime frequencies across the three-year period provides an overview of prevailing crime trends and enables the identification of patterns, including increases or decreases in specific offenses.

The analysis of crime frequency serves as an important indicator of public order and community safety within the province. It also reflects the effectiveness of law enforcement initiatives and crime prevention strategies. The findings presented in this section provide the foundation for understanding non-index crime patterns and

for evaluating the performance of crime prevention programs implemented by the La Union Provincial Police Office in addressing violations of special laws.

Table 3 Status of non-index crimes in the Province of La Union from 2022 to 2024 in terms of Frequency

Nature of Offense	2022	2023	2024	Total	Percentage
RA 9165 (Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act)	96	141	215	452	33.76%
PD 1602 (Illegal Gambling)	149	136	102	387	28.89%
Acts of Lasciviousness	32	46	17	95	7.10%
RA 10591 (Illegal Possession of Firearms)	43	16	20	79	5.90%
Frustrated Homicide	12	24	22	58	4.33%
RA 9262 (VAWC Law)	15	22	21	58	4.33%
Frustrated Murder	14	9	12	35	2.61%
Threats	12	13	9	34	2.54%
Direct Assaults	6	9	7	22	1.64%
PD 705 (Illegal Logging)	12	6	3	21	1.57%
Attempted Homicide	7	4	8	19	1.42%
Estafa	5	6	8	19	1.42%
Resistance & Disobedience to Person in Authority	6	8	5	19	1.42%
Malicious Mischief	3	4	6	13	0.97%
Unjust Vexations	6	3	1	10	0.75%
Attempted Murder	5	2	2	9	0.67%
Trespass to Dwelling	3	1	5	9	0.67%
Grand Total	426	450	463	1,339	100%

A closer examination of Table 3, the frequency of non-index crimes reported in the Province of La Union from 2022 to 2024. The data reveal that violations of RA 9165 (Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act) recorded the highest frequency (452 cases) and showed a consistent increase over the three-year period. This upward trend suggests that illegal drug activity remains a persistent concern in the province, despite ongoing enforcement efforts.

This pattern can be explained using Strain Theory, which posits that individuals experiencing economic hardship, unemployment, and limited access to legitimate opportunities may resort to illegal means as a coping mechanism. In the context of La Union, factors such as seasonal employment, economic inequality, and limited livelihood opportunities may contribute to continued involvement in drug-related activities. The increase in cases may also reflect intensified police operations; however, it simultaneously indicates that enforcement alone may not be sufficient to address the root causes of the problem.

In contrast, illegal gambling cases (PD 1602) showed a steady decline from 2022 to 2024. This suggests that strengthened enforcement measures, including police visibility and checkpoint operations, have been effective. From the perspective of Rational Choice Theory, the increased risk of apprehension discourages individuals from engaging in such activities, indicating that offenders respond to heightened enforcement and perceived consequences.

Meanwhile, offenses related to acts of lasciviousness and violations of RA 9262 (Violence Against Women and Their Children) highlight the continued presence of gender-based violence. Although fluctuations were observed, the overall frequency of these cases suggests persistent issues within households and communities. These trends can be understood through both Social Disorganization Theory and Strain Theory, as weakened social control, family instability, and economic stress may contribute to interpersonal and domestic violence. In the context of La Union, limited awareness, underreporting, and inadequate access to support services may further aggravate the situation.

Similarly, fluctuations in cases such as frustrated homicide, frustrated murder, threats, and direct assaults indicate ongoing interpersonal conflicts within communities. These patterns reflect underlying social tensions and may be associated with environmental and social conditions such as mobility, population interaction, and weak conflict resolution mechanisms. From the lens of Routine Activity Theory, these offenses may occur in situations where capable guardianship is limited, allowing conflicts to escalate into criminal acts.

On the other hand, the decline in illegal possession of firearms (RA 10591) suggests improved monitoring and enforcement. This aligns with Rational Choice Theory, as stricter regulation and increased risk of detection reduce the likelihood of individuals engaging in firearm-related offenses.

The findings indicate that while enforcement strategies have been effective in reducing certain non-index crimes, drug-related offenses and gender-based violence remain persistent challenges. This suggests that crime prevention in La Union requires a more comprehensive approach that combines law enforcement, socio-economic interventions, community-based programs, and strengthened support systems. The integration of these strategies is essential to address not only the symptoms but also the underlying causes of non-index crimes.

Status of index crimes in the Province of La Union from 2022 to 2024 in terms of Geographical Location

This part shows where index crimes happened in the province of La Union from 2022 to 2024. It looks at how crime happens in different cities and towns, using official police records from the province's police stations. Knowing where crimes happen gives you a better idea of spatial crime trends and shows you where crime is more or less common.

To find out where crimes are most likely to happen, it's important to look at where index crimes happen and how they relate to things like population density, business activity, mobility, and accessibility. Urbanized and economically active regions typically exhibit elevated crime rates, attributable to heightened social interactions and greater possibilities for criminal conduct, whereas rural and physically isolated areas frequently report diminished incidences.

The results in this section can be used to critic how well the La Union Provincial Police Office deployment, patrol techniques, and localized crime reduction programs are working. This conversation also helps figure out how crime trends in different areas affect how resources are used and how agencies work together to keep peace and order, as seen in the chart below.

Table 4 Status of index crimes in the Province of La Union from 2022 to 2024 in terms of Geographical Location

Police Station	2022	2023	2024	Total	Percentage
San Fernando City PS	34	41	19	94	17.84%
Bauang PS	16	18	18	52	9.87%
San Juan PS	30	9	7	46	8.73%
Agoo PS	23	12	9	44	8.35%
Aringay PS	8	13	15	36	6.83%
Rosario PS	16	12	6	34	6.45%
Luna PS	8	9	12	29	5.50%
Bacnotan PS	9	10	10	29	5.50%
Santo Tomas PS	7	10	8	25	4.74%
Naguilian PS	2	11	9	22	4.18%
Balaoan PS	9	7	6	22	4.18%
Bangar PS	9	3	7	19	3.61%
Tubao PS	10	4	5	19	3.61%

Pugo PS	4	7	4	15	2.85%
Sudipen PS	3	7	5	15	2.85%
Caba PS	4	2	2	8	1.52%
San Gabriel PS	1	4	2	7	1.33%
Santol PS	4	0	2	6	1.14%
Burgos PS	1	1	2	4	0.76%
Bagulin PS	0	0	1	1	0.19%
TOTAL	198	180	149	527	100%

The data indicate that Table 4 shows a total of 527 index crimes were recorded in the Province of La Union from 2022 to 2024, with cases unevenly distributed across municipalities. The data indicate that crime is concentrated in economically active and densely populated areas, while lower frequencies are observed in less populated municipalities.

San Fernando City recorded the highest number of index crimes (94 cases), reflecting its role as the provincial capital and primary commercial hub. The increase in cases from 2022 to 2023, followed by a decline in 2024, suggests fluctuations influenced by both opportunity and enforcement. This pattern can be explained using Routine Activity Theory, which posits that crime occurs when motivated offenders, suitable targets, and the absence of capable guardians converge. In urban centers like San Fernando City, higher population mobility, business activity, and tourism increase opportunities for such convergence. The decline in 2024 may indicate improved police visibility and strengthened guardianship, reducing crime opportunities.

Similarly, municipalities such as Bauang, San Juan, and Agoo exhibited notable variations. The decline in crime cases in San Juan and Agoo suggests the effectiveness of intensified policing strategies, including hotspot policing and increased patrol operations. From the perspective of Rational Choice Theory, the increased risk of apprehension likely influenced offender decision-making, discouraging criminal activity in these areas.

In contrast, Aringay showed a steady increase in crime cases over the three-year period. This trend may be associated with emerging economic activity, population movement, or urban expansion. According to Social Disorganization Theory, communities undergoing transition or rapid development may experience weakened informal social control, making them more vulnerable to crime. The observed increase highlights the need for early intervention in developing municipalities to prevent the escalation of crime.

Other municipalities such as Rosario, Luna, Bacnotan, Santo Tomas, Naguilian, and Balaoan showed moderate fluctuations. Notably, the sharp increase in Naguilian from 2022 to 2023 suggests a possible shift in crime concentration. This indicates that crime is dynamic and may relocate to areas with relatively lower police presence or weaker preventive measures, emphasizing the importance of continuous monitoring and adaptive deployment strategies.

On the other hand, smaller and less populated municipalities such as Bagulin, Burgos, and Santol recorded the lowest number of index crimes. This can be explained through Social Disorganization Theory, as these areas tend to have stronger community cohesion, stable social structures, and effective informal social control, which reduce the likelihood of serious crimes. Additionally, lower population density and limited economic activity reduce opportunities for criminal behavior.

Overall, the geographical distribution of index crimes in La Union demonstrates that urbanization, population density, and economic activity significantly influence crime occurrence. While proactive policing and increased visibility have contributed to crime reduction in several municipalities, the emergence of new hotspots indicates the need for data-driven policing, continuous hotspot analysis, and flexible resource allocation to effectively manage shifting crime patterns within the province.

Status of non-index crimes in the Province of La Union from 2022 to 2024 in terms of Geographical Location.

This part shows where in La Union, from 2022 to 2024, non-index offenses were reported. It looks at the places where non-index crimes were recorded in cities and towns, based on police reports. Looking at where these crimes happen in space can help us understand how public order crimes and social-behavioral crimes are more common in certain parts of the province.

Knowing where non-index crimes happen is critical for finding groups that are more likely to be the victims of crimes like threats, direct attacks, and other similar crimes. These crimes happen more commonly in places with more people, more social interaction, and more business or residential activity. In contrast, remote and less accessible regions tend to have fewer cases. Geographic considerations including how easy it is to get to a place, if there are public spaces, and whether the community is watching also affect how often and how crimes that aren't on the index are reported.

This part's results help us figure out how well the Philippine National Police's policies for police visibility, barangay-level interventions, and community-based crime prevention are working. This topic gives a spatial framework for looking at how different areas handle non-index crimes. It also serves as a basis for targeted policing, enforcing ordinances, and working together with agencies, as shown in the table that follows.

Table 5 Status of non-index crimes in the Province of La Union from 2022 to 2024 in terms of Geographical Location

Police Station	2022	2023	2024	Total	Percentage
San Fernando City PS	87	97	80	264	17.41%
Bauang PS	52	73	97	222	14.65%
Agoo PS	59	55	48	162	10.69%
Aringay PS	29	40	63	132	8.71%
Rosario PS	48	39	19	106	6.99%
Bangar PS	27	24	26	77	5.08%
Santo Tomas PS	18	30	24	72	4.75%
Luna PS	21	34	16	71	4.68%
Naguilian PS	22	27	22	71	4.68%
Bacnotan PS	28	20	23	71	4.68%
Tubao PS	25	13	14	52	3.43%
Caba PS	12	13	19	44	2.90%
Balaoan PS	15	8	17	40	2.64%
Pugo PS	8	9	14	31	2.05%
San Juan PS	12	12	6	30	1.98%
Sudipen PS	15	8	6	29	1.91%
San Gabriel PS	8	3	4	15	0.99%
Santol PS	3	4	5	12	0.79%
Burgos PS	5	0	4	9	0.59%
Bagulin PS	3	2	1	6	0.40%
TOTAL	497	511	508	1,516	100%

Based on Table 5, non-index crimes in the Province of La Union from 2022 to 2024 were concentrated in urbanized and economically active municipalities, particularly San Fernando City, Bauang, Agoo, and Aringay. This pattern indicates that areas with higher population density, economic activity, and mobility tend to experience a greater number of regulatory and non-violent offenses.

San Fernando City recorded the highest number of cases (264), reflecting its role as the provincial capital and primary commercial hub. The increase from 2022 to 2023, followed by a decline in 2024, suggests that while exposure to crime opportunities remains high, improvements in enforcement and monitoring may have contributed to recent reductions. This pattern can be explained using Routine Activity Theory, which posits that crime is more likely to occur where motivated offenders, suitable targets, and limited guardianship converge. In highly urbanized areas such as San Fernando City, commercial activity, transportation access, and daily social interaction increase the likelihood of such convergence. The decline in 2024 may indicate strengthened guardianship through intensified police presence and community-based interventions.

Similarly, Bauang exhibited a steady increase in non-index crimes, which may be attributed to its ongoing commercial development and increasing population movement. This trend can be interpreted through Strain Theory, as economic pressures and limited opportunities may push individuals toward involvement in illegal activities such as gambling or drug-related offenses. At the same time, the increase may also reflect intensified police operations, suggesting that higher recorded cases do not necessarily indicate higher crime occurrence alone but may also result from improved detection and enforcement.

In contrast, Agoo showed a declining trend, while Aringay demonstrated a continuous increase in cases, indicating a possible shift in crime concentration across municipalities. This observation supports Social Disorganization Theory, which explains that communities undergoing population growth, mobility, or economic transition may experience weakened informal social control, making them more vulnerable to crime. The increase in Aringay highlights the importance of early intervention in developing areas to prevent the escalation of criminal activity.

The distribution of non-index crimes also reflects the operational impact of the PNP P.A.T.R.O.L. Plan 2030, particularly in terms of increased police visibility, checkpoint operations, and intelligence-driven policing. These strategies may have contributed to improved detection and stabilization of crime in certain areas. However, a critical perspective suggests that while the program enhances enforcement capacity, it may also lead to increased reporting and recording of offenses, particularly for non-index crimes. Additionally, challenges such as limited manpower, logistical constraints, and varying levels of local government support may affect the consistent implementation of these strategies across municipalities.

The role of Barangay Peacekeeping Action Teams (BPATs) further strengthens crime prevention at the community level. Their active involvement in monitoring, reporting, and coordinating with law enforcement enhances guardianship within communities. Consistent with Routine Activity Theory, the presence of capable guardians reduces opportunities for crime. In municipalities where BPAT participation and community cooperation are strong, non-index crimes tend to stabilize or decline. In contrast, rural municipalities such as Bagulin, Burgos, Santol, San Gabriel, and Sudipen recorded the lowest number of non-index crimes. This can be explained by Social Disorganization Theory, as these areas typically exhibit stronger social cohesion, stable relationships, and effective informal social control. Furthermore, Routine Activity Theory suggests that lower population density, limited commercial activity, and reduced mobility decrease the likelihood of interaction between offenders and potential targets, thereby reducing crime opportunities. Overall, the geographical distribution of non-index crimes in La Union demonstrates that urbanization, economic activity, and mobility are key drivers of crime occurrence. While law enforcement strategies and community participation have contributed to improvements in certain areas, the shifting nature of crime patterns highlights the need for continuous hotspot monitoring, balanced enforcement strategies, and stronger socio-economic interventions to ensure sustainable crime reduction across both urban and rural communities.

Crime Efficiency in the Province La Union from 2022 to 2024

This section looks at how effectively crimes were solved in the Province of La Union from 2022 to 2024. Crime efficiency refers to how quickly and thoroughly the police respond to reported incidents, investigate cases, and

bring them to resolution. It reflects how crimes are handled from the time they are reported until they are officially closed.

Understanding crime efficiency helps show how well the police carry out their investigative responsibilities and how strong their coordination is with local government units and community members. The data used in this section were taken from official police records, particularly case status reports, which provide a clear picture of how criminal cases were managed during the period under study.

Crime Efficiency in the Province of La Union from 2022 to 2024

Crime statistics do not only reflect the number of incidents recorded but also reveal how effectively law enforcement agencies respond to and resolve these cases. While crime volume provides insight into the prevalence of criminal activity, crime efficiency highlights the operational capability of the police in investigating, managing, and closing cases. Measuring crime solution performance is therefore essential in assessing the overall effectiveness of public safety efforts in the province.

Table 6 Total Crime Incidents Recorded, Crimes Solved, and Crime Solution Rate from 2022–2024

Year	Total Crime Incidents Recorded	Crimes Solved	Crime Solution Rate (%)
2022	695	611	87.91%
2023	691	621	89.87%
2024	657	577	87.82%
Overall	2,043	1,809	88.53%

The Crime Solution Rate (CSR) was computed using the formula: Total Crimes Solved divided by Total Crimes Recorded, multiplied by 100. This means that the number of cases successfully solved by the police was divided by the total number of crime incidents reported within a given year, and the result was converted into a percentage. The CSR indicates the proportion of reported crimes that were resolved, serving as a key measure of investigative efficiency and overall law enforcement performance in the province. If you will examine Table 6, it shows that while crime incidents in the Province of La Union remained present from 2022 to 2024, a consistently high proportion of these cases were successfully resolved. The crime solution rate ranged from 87.82% to 89.87%, with the highest recorded in 2023. Despite a slight decline in total crime incidents in 2024, the Philippine National Police (PNP) maintained a high level of investigative performance, solving 577 out of 657 reported cases. These findings suggest that the PNP in La Union has demonstrated strong investigative capability and case management efficiency. As emphasized by Bayley (2006), police effectiveness is not solely measured by crime reduction but also by the ability to resolve cases efficiently. Similarly, Braga et al. (2019) highlighted that focused policing strategies and community cooperation contribute significantly to higher case clearance and solution rates. The consistently high crime solution rate may be attributed to the collaborative framework between the PNP, local government units (LGUs), and community stakeholders. Legal mandates such as Republic Act No. 6975, as amended by Republic Act No. 8551, emphasize professionalism, accountability, and community-oriented policing, while the Local Government Code of 1991 (RA 7160) empowers LGUs and barangays to actively participate in peace and order initiatives. In the context of La Union, this coordination facilitates faster reporting, improved access to witnesses, and stronger support for investigative processes.

Programs such as Peace ADORE, PACDAAR, Bayani Ka, Kaibigan, and the Police Assistance and Intervention Desk (PA-ID) further operationalize this collaborative approach by strengthening community engagement, early intervention, and information sharing. These initiatives enhance what Routine Activity Theory refers to as “capable guardianship,” not only in preventing crime but also in improving the likelihood of case resolution through increased community cooperation.

However, it is important to critically note that a high crime solution rate does not necessarily equate to effective crime prevention. While many cases are resolved, the continued occurrence of certain crimes—particularly non-index offenses and crimes against persons—suggests that underlying causes such as socio-economic pressures and community-level vulnerabilities remain unaddressed. In this context, high solution rates may reflect strong reactive capacity (investigation and resolution) but do not automatically indicate reduced crime occurrence or improved long-term public safety.

Overall, the findings highlight that while the PNP in La Union is effective in resolving cases, there is a need to further strengthen proactive and preventive strategies, including community-based interventions and socio-economic programs, to complement existing enforcement efforts and achieve sustainable crime reduction.

Crime Prevention Strategies Employed by the PNP

Based on the qualitative interviews with thirty (30) respondents composed of PNP investigators and Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT) members, the crime prevention strategies of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in the Province of La Union were thematically analyzed. The results reveal that despite operational and logistical constraints, the PNP has adopted adaptive, community-oriented, and resource-based strategies to prevent the occurrence of index and non-index crimes.

Table 7 Crime Prevention Strategies Employed by the PNP in the Province of La Union (N = 30)

Theme	Frequency 30	Sample Responses
Police Visibility and Patrol Operations	24	“Ginagawa naming araw-araw ang foot patrol kahit kulang sa tao para lang maramdaman ng komunidad ang presensya ng pulis.” (R4); “Malaki ang naitutulong ng checkpoint at visibility lalo na sa gabi.”
Community-Based Policing and BPAT Engagement	22	“Mas mabilis ang responde kapag may BPAT dahil may alam sila sa lugar.” (R10); “Ang mga BPAT ay malaking tulong lalo na sa pagbabantay sa gabi.” (R3)
Strategic Deployment and Resource Optimization	20	“Pinaprioritize namin ang mga lugar na mataas ang crime rate.”
Inter-Agency and LGU Collaboration	22	“Mas madali ang trabaho kapag supportive ang mayor at konseho.” (R5); “Umaasa kami minsan sa LGU para sa budget ng operasyon.”
Data-Driven Policing and Monitoring	21	“Ginagamit namin ang crime map para malaman kung saan madalas ang insidente.” (R3); “Nakatulong ang data monitoring sa pagpapalano ng patrol schedule.” (R6)
Use of Detachment Outposts and Alternative Transport	20	“Naglagay kami ng detachment sa liblib na barangay para mas madali ang responde.” (R1); “Ginagamit namin minsan ang motorsiklo o habal-habal.” (R2)

Theme 1: Police Visibility and Patrol Operations

Police visibility emerged as one of the most dominant crime prevention strategies employed by the Philippine National Police (PNP) in the Province of La Union. Based on the responses of key informants, continuous foot and mobile patrols, checkpoint operations, and focused deployment in crime-prone areas are consistently implemented despite limitations in manpower and logistical resources. Respondents emphasized that the presence of police personnel alone serves as a deterrent to criminal activity. As one officer stated, “*Ginagawa naming araw-araw ang foot patrol kahit kulang sa tao para lang maramdaman ng komunidad ang presensya ng pulis*” (R4). Similarly, checkpoints were identified as effective preventive measures, particularly during nighttime operations.

This reliance on visibility reflects a deterrence-based approach to crime prevention, wherein the presence of law enforcement serves both as a warning to potential offenders and a source of reassurance for the community. From the perspective of Routine Activity Theory, visible police presence strengthens “capable guardianship,” thereby reducing opportunities for crime by increasing the perceived risk of detection and apprehension. In the context of La Union, particularly in urban and high-traffic areas, sustained police visibility disrupts the convergence of offenders and potential targets, contributing to the reduction of certain crimes.

The implementation of patrol operations, checkpoints, and omnipresence strategies is further reinforced by national frameworks such as the PNP P.A.T.R.O.L. Plan 2030, which institutionalizes proactive and community-oriented policing. Complementary initiatives such as the Police Assistance and Intervention Desk (PA-ID) enhance accessibility of police services at the barangay level, enabling early intervention and preventing minor incidents from escalating into more serious offenses.

However, despite its effectiveness, heavy reliance on police visibility presents operational limitations. Sustaining continuous patrol operations under conditions of limited manpower, insufficient resources, and geographic challenges may lead to personnel fatigue and inconsistent coverage. Moreover, while visibility is effective in deterring opportunistic crimes, it may have limited impact on offenses driven by deeper socio-economic factors. This suggests that police visibility, while essential, should be complemented by community-based interventions and long-term preventive strategies to ensure sustainable crime reduction.

Theme 2: Community-Based Policing and BPAT Engagement

Community-based policing, particularly through the involvement of Barangay Peacekeeping Action Teams (BPATs), emerged as a vital component of crime prevention in the Province of La Union. Respondents consistently emphasized that BPATs enhance police response, surveillance, and situational awareness, especially in geographically remote or resource-limited areas. As one respondent noted, “*Mas mabilis ang pagresponde kapag may BPAT dahil kabisado nila ang lugar*” (R10), while another highlighted their role in night monitoring and community security.

This strong reliance on BPATs reflects the importance of community participation in strengthening informal social control at the barangay level. Through regular monitoring, reporting of suspicious activities, and coordination with the PNP, BPATs function as an extension of police presence within the community. In the context of Social Disorganization Theory, communities with stronger social cohesion, active participation, and shared responsibility are more capable of regulating behavior and preventing crime. In La Union, the presence of organized and active BPATs contributes to maintaining order by reinforcing collective responsibility and enhancing local guardianship.

Furthermore, the use of communication platforms such as group chats facilitates real-time coordination between BPAT members and police personnel, improving response time and information sharing. These practices reflect the principles of community-oriented policing promoted under PNP Police Community Relations (PCR) programs, including PACDAAR, which institutionalize partnerships between law enforcement and local communities.

However, while community-based policing has proven effective, its success is highly dependent on the capacity, training, and consistency of BPAT members across different barangays. Variations in commitment, resources, and organizational structure may affect the overall effectiveness of this strategy. In some cases, limited training and lack of incentives may reduce the sustainability of BPAT engagement.

In general, the findings indicate that community-based policing significantly enhances crime prevention efforts in La Union by strengthening cooperation and informal control mechanisms. However, to maximize its effectiveness, there is a need to standardize training, improve support systems, and sustain community

engagement initiatives, ensuring that BPATs remain a reliable and effective partner in maintaining peace and order.

Theme 3: Inter-Agency and LGU Collaboration

Inter-agency and local government unit (LGU) collaboration emerged as a critical support mechanism in enhancing crime prevention efforts in the Province of La Union. Respondents emphasized that logistical assistance, such as fuel support, provision of equipment, and active participation of LGUs in peace and order initiatives, significantly strengthen police operations. As one respondent noted, *“Mas madali ang trabaho kapag supportive ang mayor at konseho”* (R5). Partnerships with private stakeholders, including the installation of street lighting and CCTV systems, further contribute to improving community safety.

This collaborative approach reflects the recognition that crime prevention is not solely the responsibility of law enforcement but requires multi-sectoral coordination. In the context of criminological perspectives, this aligns with Social Disorganization Theory, which highlights the importance of strong institutions and community structures in maintaining social order. When LGUs, law enforcement, and community stakeholders actively cooperate, they reinforce formal and informal control mechanisms that reduce opportunities for crime.

Legal frameworks such as Republic Act No. 7160 (Local Government Code of 1991) and Republic Act No. 6975, as amended by RA 8551, institutionalize this shared responsibility by mandating coordination between LGUs and the Philippine National Police (PNP). In practice, this collaboration facilitates resource sharing, improves operational capacity, and enhances responsiveness to community needs. In La Union, such coordination has contributed to improved patrol operations, faster response time, and better implementation of crime prevention programs.

Programs such as Project SAGIP ANGHEL further demonstrate the operationalization of inter-agency collaboration by linking the PNP with LGUs, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and non-government organizations in addressing sensitive cases such as violence against women and children (VAWC). These coordinated efforts enable a more comprehensive approach to crime prevention by addressing both enforcement and social protection dimensions.

Though, the effectiveness of inter-agency collaboration is largely dependent on the level of commitment and resource allocation of LGUs. Variations in support across municipalities may result in uneven implementation of crime prevention strategies. In areas where LGU support is limited, police operations may be constrained by insufficient resources, affecting patrol coverage and preventive initiatives. This highlights the need for more consistent policy implementation, resource distribution, and accountability mechanisms to ensure sustained collaboration across all areas.

Taken together, the findings indicate that strong LGU–PNP collaboration significantly enhances crime prevention efforts in La Union. However, to maximize its effectiveness, there is a need to strengthen institutional coordination, ensure equitable resource support, and sustain multi-sectoral partnerships in maintaining peace and order.

Theme 4: Data-Driven Policing and Monitoring

Data-driven policing, particularly through the use of crime mapping and monitoring, was identified as an important tool in planning and implementing patrol operations in the Province of La Union. Respondents emphasized that crime maps are used to identify hotspots and guide deployment decisions, as reflected in the statement, *“Ginagamit namin ang crime map para malaman kung saan madalas ang insidente”* (R3). This practice enables law enforcement personnel to allocate resources more efficiently and focus on areas with higher crime incidence.

The application of crime mapping reflects the principles of Environmental Criminology, which emphasizes that crime is not randomly distributed but tends to cluster in specific locations and time periods. By identifying these spatial patterns, the PNP is able to implement targeted interventions, such as hotspot policing and strategic patrol scheduling, which enhance the effectiveness of crime prevention efforts. In the context of La Union, data-driven deployment allows police units to respond proactively to emerging crime trends rather than relying solely on reactive measures.

Furthermore, the use of crime data supports the broader objectives of the PNP P.A.T.R.O.L. Plan 2030, which promotes intelligence-driven and evidence-based policing. By integrating crime statistics into operational planning, the PNP can optimize limited manpower and logistical resources, particularly in high-risk areas.

Still, despite its advantages, the effectiveness of data-driven policing is constrained by technological limitations, particularly in rural municipalities. Respondents noted challenges such as inadequate equipment, limited internet connectivity, and reliance on manual data processing. These limitations may affect the accuracy, timeliness, and utilization of crime data, thereby reducing the full potential of evidence-based policing.

Collectively, the findings indicate that while data-driven policing enhances strategic decision-making and resource allocation, its effectiveness depends on the availability of adequate technological infrastructure. Strengthening digital capabilities and improving access to reliable data systems are essential to fully maximize the benefits of this approach in crime prevention and control.

Theme 5: Use of Detachment Outposts and Alternative Transport

The establishment of police detachment outposts and the use of alternative modes of transportation emerged as adaptive strategies in addressing crime prevention challenges in remote and hard-to-reach barangays in the Province of La Union. Respondents emphasized that the placement of detachments in geographically isolated areas improves accessibility and reduces response time, as reflected in the statement, “*Naglagay kami ng detachment sa liblib na barangay para mas madali ang responde*” (R1). Similarly, the use of motorcycles or *habal-habal* enables police personnel to reach areas that are inaccessible to standard patrol vehicles.

These adaptive practices reflect a decentralized and flexible approach to policing, particularly in geographically constrained environments. From the perspective of Routine Activity Theory, increasing police presence even through alternative means enhances “capable guardianship,” thereby reducing opportunities for crime. In the context of La Union, where some barangays are mountainous or difficult to access, these strategies ensure that law enforcement visibility is maintained despite physical limitations.

The implementation of detachment outposts and flexible mobility strategies is further supported by the PNP P.A.T.R.O.L. Plan 2030, which encourages operational adaptability to ensure effective policing across diverse environments. Studies have also shown that accessibility and mobility are critical factors in improving response time, strengthening police presence, and enhancing crime solution efficiency.

Nevertheless, while these strategies improve coverage and responsiveness, they also highlight underlying logistical and operational constraints. The reliance on alternative transport and temporary outposts may pose challenges in terms of sustainability, resource allocation, and officer safety, particularly in areas with limited infrastructure and support systems. Additionally, these measures may not fully compensate for broader issues such as manpower shortages and inadequate equipment.

On the whole, the findings indicate that while detachment outposts and alternative transport are effective in addressing geographic barriers, there is a need to strengthen infrastructure support, resource allocation, and long-term operational planning to ensure the sustainability and safety of these strategies. Integrating these adaptive measures with broader institutional improvements is essential for enhancing crime prevention efforts in remote communities.

Theme 6: Challenges Encountered by the PNP in Crime Prevention

Interview results further revealed several challenges that significantly affect the implementation of crime prevention strategies. These challenges were grouped into institutional, logistical, geographical, governance-related, and community-based factors.

Table 8 Challenges Encountered by the PNP in Crime Prevention in the Province of La Union (N = 30)

Theme	Frequency (%)	Sample Responses
Insufficient Police Personnel	28	“Madalas na-overtime kami kasi limitado lang ang bilang ng pulis na naka-duty.” (R8);
Limited Mobility and Logistical Resources	25	“Tisa lang ang mobile namin, minsan pa ay sira o walang gasolina.” (R2); “Minsan kailangan naming maglakad papunta sa bundok dahil hindi naaabot ng patrol car.” (R10)
Poor Communication and Outdated Technology	22	“Gumagamit kami ng sariling cellphone para sa communication.” (R4)
Geographical and Environmental Constraints	27	“May mga barangay sa bundok na halos dalawang oras lakarin bago marating.” (R1); “Kapag umuulan, hindi talaga madaraan ang mga liblib na lugar.” (R4);
Limited and Inconsistent LGU Support	20	“May LGU na nagbibigay ng tulong tulad ng gasolina, pero meron ding halos wala.” (R1); Mas madali sana kung lahat ng LGU ay supportive.” (R5)
Weak Enforcement of Local Ordinances	20	“May barangay na hindi mahigpit sa pagpapatupad ng curfew.” (R3)
Low Community Cooperation and Awareness	20	“May mga tao na takot magsumbong dahil sa posibleng ganti.” (R2); “Marami ang walang alam sa tamang proseso ng pag-report.” (R3)
Socioeconomic Pressures (Poverty and Unemployment)	22	“Maraming pagnanakaw dahil hirap sa buhay at walang permanenteng trabaho.” (R1); “Napipilitang gumawa ng masama para matustusan ang pamilya.” (R4)

Theme 1: Insufficient Police Personnel

One of the most significant challenges identified in crime prevention in the Province of La Union is the shortage of police personnel. Respondents consistently emphasized that limited staffing affects multiple aspects of police operations, including response time, patrol coverage, and overall service delivery. In several municipalities, a single officer is responsible for multiple barangays, resulting in operational strain. As one respondent stated, “Kulang talaga kami sa tauhan; lalo pag nagsabay sabay ang responde at operation” (R1). Others highlighted extended working hours and the need to manage multiple operational areas simultaneously due to manpower limitations.

These conditions indicate that insufficient personnel leads to reduced police visibility, delayed response, and limited preventive patrols, which may weaken overall crime control efforts. From the perspective of Routine Activity Theory, the shortage of police personnel reduces the presence of “capable guardians,” thereby increasing opportunities for crime to occur. When police visibility is limited, the convergence of motivated offenders and suitable targets becomes more likely, particularly in high-risk and underserved areas.

Additionally, this challenge can be explained through Social Disorganization Theory, which emphasizes the importance of strong institutions and social control in maintaining order. In communities where formal control mechanisms, such as police presence, are limited, reliance shifts to informal controls. However, when both

formal and informal controls are weak or inconsistent, communities become more vulnerable to criminal activity.

From a broader policing perspective, this situation reflects the shift from a police-centered model to a shared-responsibility model of crime prevention (Bayley, 2006). Similarly, Problem-Oriented Policing (Goldstein, 1990) highlights that crime problems cannot be effectively addressed by police alone but require collaboration with community stakeholders who understand local conditions.

In the context of La Union, these theoretical perspectives are evident in the increased reliance on Barangay Peacekeeping Action Teams (BPATs) and community-based initiatives such as PACDAAR. These mechanisms serve as extensions of police presence by enhancing community surveillance, facilitating early reporting, and strengthening informal social control. Through this collaborative approach, some of the gaps caused by manpower shortages are mitigated.

Despite this, while community participation helps address immediate limitations, it does not fully replace the need for adequate police staffing. Persistent manpower shortages may affect the sustainability of crime prevention efforts, particularly in geographically dispersed or high-crime areas. This highlights the need for strengthening both formal and informal control mechanisms, including improved personnel allocation, resource augmentation, and continued community engagement.

Theme 2: Limited Mobility and Logistical Resources

Limited mobility and logistical resources were identified as major challenges affecting police operations in the Province of La Union. Respondents frequently cited the lack of patrol vehicles, insufficient fuel, and poor accessibility as key obstacles to timely response. As one respondent shared, "*Iisa lang ang mobile namin, minsan pa ay sira o walang gasolina*" (R2), while another noted that distance significantly delays response time in remote areas. In extreme cases, officers are forced to walk long distances, particularly in mountainous barangays, highlighting the severity of logistical constraints.

These mobility limitations result in reduced patrol coverage, decreased police visibility, and delayed response to incidents, particularly in geographically isolated communities. Consequently, crime prevention efforts tend to become reactive rather than proactive, as police presence is limited and response is often delayed.

From the perspective of Routine Activity Theory, limited mobility weakens "capable guardianship," as police officers are unable to maintain consistent visibility and rapid response in high-risk areas. This increases the likelihood of crime, as the absence of immediate guardianship allows the convergence of motivated offenders and suitable targets. In geographically remote areas of La Union, delayed response and limited patrol presence may create conditions where criminal opportunities are less effectively controlled.

Additionally, this challenge can be explained through Environmental Criminology, which emphasizes the role of spatial and geographic factors in shaping crime patterns. Areas that are difficult to access, such as mountainous or remote barangays, tend to experience weaker formal control due to limited police presence. This spatial disadvantage may increase vulnerability to crime, as offenders may exploit areas where enforcement is less visible or delayed.

In line with these theoretical perspectives, policing in resource-constrained environments requires adaptability and collaboration. As noted by Bayley (2006) and Brogden and Nijhar (2005), effective policing in developing contexts often depends on the adaptive use of available resources and partnerships with local institutions rather than solely on formal logistical capacity.

In the context of La Union, collaboration with local government units (LGUs) plays a crucial role in addressing logistical limitations. Support in the form of fuel, vehicle maintenance, and alternative transportation helps

compensate for resource shortages. The flexibility promoted under the PNP P.A.T.R.O.L. Plan 2030, including the use of motorcycles and other alternative means of transport, reflects a practical adaptation to geographic and logistical constraints.

Even so, while these adaptive strategies help mitigate immediate challenges, they do not fully address underlying structural limitations. Persistent mobility constraints may affect the sustainability of police operations, particularly in ensuring consistent coverage and officer safety. This highlights the need for enhanced logistical support, infrastructure development, and strategic resource allocation, alongside continued inter-agency collaboration, to strengthen crime prevention efforts in geographically challenged areas.

Theme 3: Poor Communication and Outdated Technology

Communication challenges were consistently identified by respondents as significant barriers to effective crime prevention in the Province of La Union. Limitations such as outdated communication equipment and weak signal coverage hinder coordination among police units. As one respondent reported, "*Luma na ang mga radyo namin, minsan wala pang signal*" (R3), while another noted the reliance on personal devices, stating, "*Gumagamit kami ng sariling cellphone para sa communication*" (R4).

These communication constraints result in reduced situational awareness, delayed decision-making, and slower response times, all of which weaken the overall effectiveness of police operations. When information is not transmitted efficiently, coordination between units becomes fragmented, increasing the likelihood of delayed or inadequate responses to incidents.

From a theoretical perspective, this issue can be understood through Routine Activity Theory, as ineffective communication weakens "capable guardianship." Even when police personnel are present, their inability to coordinate and respond promptly reduces their effectiveness as guardians, thereby increasing opportunities for crime. In high-risk situations, delayed communication may allow offenders to evade detection or continue criminal activity.

Additionally, Social Disorganization Theory highlights the importance of strong institutional capacity in maintaining social order. When formal systems such as police communication networks are weak or unreliable, institutional control is compromised, potentially increasing community vulnerability to crime. In such cases, the effectiveness of law enforcement depends on the strength of alternative support systems.

Manning (2003) further explains that police organizations operate as information-processing systems, where the ability to gather, transmit, and utilize information directly influences operational effectiveness. In contexts where formal communication systems are limited, informal and community-based communication networks often emerge to fill the gap.

In the context of La Union, this is evident in the reliance on barangay-level coordination, BPAT involvement, and Police Assistance and Intervention Desk (PA-ID) mechanisms, which serve as alternative channels for information sharing. Through these community-based networks, information flows more efficiently despite technological limitations, enabling faster reporting and response. This reflects a shift toward shared communication systems, where both formal law enforcement and community actors contribute to maintaining situational awareness.

However, while these adaptive practices help sustain operations, they do not fully compensate for the lack of modern communication infrastructure. Continued reliance on informal systems and personal devices may raise concerns related to reliability, security, and consistency of information. This highlights the need for upgrading communication equipment, improving signal coverage, and investing in integrated communication systems to enhance coordination and response efficiency.

Theme 4: Geographical and Environmental Constraints

Geographical and environmental factors were identified as significant challenges affecting police operations in the Province of La Union. Respondents described the presence of mountainous terrain, remote barangays, and limited access routes that make certain areas difficult to reach. As one respondent noted, “*May mga barangay sa bundok na halos dalawang oras lakarin bago marating*” (R1). Weather conditions further aggravate these challenges, with heavy rainfall rendering roads impassable and increasing the risk of natural hazards such as landslides and flooding. These conditions result in delays in police response and limit regular patrol operations.

These environmental constraints lead to reduced police visibility, delayed response time, and limited coverage, particularly in geographically isolated communities. As a result, crime prevention efforts in these areas tend to be less consistent, increasing the vulnerability of residents due to the absence of immediate law enforcement support.

From the perspective of Environmental Criminology, crime patterns and policing effectiveness are significantly influenced by physical geography. Brantingham and Brantingham (1993) emphasize that areas characterized by isolation, limited access routes, and natural barriers tend to experience weaker formal control, as the presence of law enforcement is constrained. This spatial disadvantage can create opportunities for crime, particularly when offenders perceive that detection and response are delayed.

Similarly, Routine Activity Theory explains that these geographic barriers weaken “capable guardianship,” as police officers are unable to maintain continuous presence in remote areas. When guardianship is reduced due to physical inaccessibility, the likelihood of crime increases, particularly in locations where supervision and monitoring are limited.

International studies on rural policing further suggest that centralized policing models are less effective in geographically dispersed and environmentally challenging areas, and instead advocate for decentralized approaches supported by strong community participation. In the context of La Union, this is reflected in the establishment of detachment outposts and the active collaboration with barangay leaders and local residents.

Community members play a critical role by providing local knowledge of terrain, weather conditions, and access routes, enabling police personnel to adapt their deployment strategies. This collaboration enhances situational awareness and partially compensates for environmental limitations, strengthening localized crime prevention efforts.

Even so, while these adaptive strategies improve accessibility and coordination, they do not fully eliminate the structural challenges posed by geography. Persistent environmental constraints may continue to affect response time, operational efficiency, and officer safety. This highlights the need for infrastructure development, improved transportation resources, and disaster-resilient policing strategies, alongside sustained community cooperation, to ensure effective and equitable crime prevention across all areas of the province.

Theme 5: Limited and Inconsistent LGU Support

Inconsistent support from local government units (LGUs) was identified as a significant challenge affecting crime prevention efforts in the Province of La Union. Respondents noted that while some LGUs provide logistical assistance such as fuel, equipment, and operational support, others offer minimal or inconsistent assistance. As one respondent explained, “*May LGU na nagbibigay ng tulong tulad ng gasolina, pero meron ding halos wala*” (R1). Others emphasized that police operations are sometimes dependent on LGU resources, highlighting the variability in local support.

This inconsistency results in uneven implementation of crime prevention strategies and varying levels of operational effectiveness across municipalities. Areas with strong LGU support tend to demonstrate better

police visibility, faster response, and more sustained preventive programs, while areas with limited support may experience operational constraints and reduced service delivery.

From a theoretical perspective, this challenge can be explained through Social Disorganization Theory, which emphasizes that strong and stable institutions are essential in maintaining social order. LGUs, as key local institutions, play a critical role in supporting law enforcement and reinforcing formal social control. When institutional support is inconsistent, the overall capacity to maintain order is weakened, resulting in fragmented crime prevention efforts.

Additionally, Routine Activity Theory highlights that effective guardianship depends not only on the presence of police personnel but also on the availability of resources that enable their operations. In areas where LGU support is limited, reduced patrol capability and logistical constraints weaken guardianship, thereby increasing opportunities for crime.

From a governance perspective, this issue reflects the principles of collaborative and community-oriented policing, where crime prevention is a shared responsibility between law enforcement and political institutions. As noted by Rosenbaum (2002), effective community policing depends on strong coordination, accountability, and shared commitment between police agencies and local governments. Weak or inconsistent governance undermines this partnership, regardless of police capability.

In the context of La Union, these theoretical perspectives explain why variations in LGU support lead to uneven crime prevention outcomes. While national policies mandate coordination between LGUs and the Philippine National Police, the effectiveness of this partnership largely depends on political will, leadership priorities, and resource allocation at the local level.

Efforts such as PACDAAR dialogues and the strengthening of Peace and Order Councils represent attempts to institutionalize collaboration and improve coordination. However, to ensure consistent and effective crime prevention, there is a need to standardize LGU support mechanisms, strengthen accountability systems, and promote uniform implementation of policies across municipalities.

Theme 6: Weak Enforcement of Local Ordinances

Weak enforcement of local ordinances was identified as a persistent challenge in crime prevention in the Province of La Union. Respondents noted that in some barangays, the implementation of ordinances such as curfew regulations and minor offense monitoring is inconsistent, with limited follow-up on violations. As one respondent stated, "*May barangay na hindi mahigpit sa pagpapatupad ng curfew*" (R3), while another emphasized the lack of accountability in enforcement. Political factors, particularly limited political will, were also identified as contributing to weak implementation.

These conditions undermine both formal and informal social control mechanisms, allowing minor violations to persist and potentially escalate into more serious criminal behavior. When rules are not consistently enforced, community norms weaken, reducing deterrence and encouraging non-compliance.

From a theoretical perspective, this issue can be explained through Broken Windows Theory, which posits that failure to address minor disorders signals tolerance for deviant behavior, thereby increasing the likelihood of more serious crimes. In the context of La Union, weak enforcement of ordinances such as curfew regulations may create an environment where minor violations are normalized, eventually contributing to broader patterns of disorder.

Additionally, Social Disorganization Theory highlights those ineffective local institutions weaken community regulation and collective responsibility. Barangays, as frontline governance units, play a crucial role in

maintaining order. When enforcement is inconsistent, the capacity of the community to regulate behavior is diminished.

Furthermore, Routine Activity Theory suggests that weak enforcement reduces the effectiveness of “capable guardianship,” as the absence of consistent monitoring and follow-up increases opportunities for both minor and serious offenses. In areas where enforcement is lax, offenders may perceive a lower risk of apprehension, reinforcing non-compliant behavior.

In response to this challenge, collaboration among barangay officials, BPATs, and the Philippine National Police (PNP) is essential. Mechanisms such as PACDAAR dialogues provide platforms for clarifying roles, strengthening accountability, and promoting coordinated enforcement. These initiatives reflect a shift toward cooperative and community-based enforcement, where responsibility is shared among stakeholders rather than relying solely on police intervention.

However, the effectiveness of these approaches depends largely on consistent leadership, political will, and accountability at the barangay level. Without uniform enforcement and sustained commitment, crime prevention efforts may remain fragmented. This highlights the need for standardized enforcement practices, strengthened monitoring systems, and capacity-building for barangay officials to ensure more effective and consistent implementation of local ordinances.

Theme 7: Low Community Cooperation and Awareness

Low levels of community cooperation and awareness were identified as significant barriers to effective crime prevention in the Province of La Union. Respondents noted that fear of retaliation, lack of knowledge on reporting procedures, and limited access to crime prevention education contribute to weak public participation. As one respondent stated, “*May mga tao na takot magsumbong dahil sa posibleng ganti*” (R2), while another emphasized that many residents are unaware of proper reporting processes. The irregular conduct of crime prevention seminars further limits public awareness and engagement.

These conditions result in reduced information flow, delayed reporting, and weakened intelligence gathering, all of which are essential components of effective policing. When community members are hesitant or unable to report incidents, crimes may remain hidden or underreported, limiting the ability of law enforcement to respond promptly and implement preventive measures.

From a theoretical perspective, this challenge can be explained through Social Disorganization Theory, which emphasizes the importance of community cohesion, trust, and collective responsibility in maintaining social order. In communities where trust in institutions is weak and participation is limited, informal social control mechanisms are weakened, increasing vulnerability to crime.

Additionally, Routine Activity Theory highlights that effective crime prevention depends not only on formal guardians such as police officers but also on the presence of capable guardians within the community. When residents are unwilling or unable to report suspicious activities, guardianship is significantly weakened, allowing criminal opportunities to persist.

From a policing perspective, public trust plays a central role in crime prevention. As explained by Skogan (2006), communities that trust law enforcement are more likely to report crimes, cooperate in investigations, and actively participate in prevention initiatives. Conversely, lack of trust leads to underreporting and reduced cooperation, weakening the overall effectiveness of crime control systems. In the context of La Union, programs such as Bayani Ka, Kaibigan and PACDAAR-led education campaigns aim to address these challenges by promoting dialogue, volunteerism, and shared responsibility between the police and the community. These initiatives help improve awareness, build trust, and encourage active participation in crime prevention.

However, while these programs are beneficial, their impact depends on consistency, accessibility, and community engagement. Irregular implementation and limited reach may hinder their effectiveness. This highlights the need for sustained public education campaigns, strengthened trust-building initiatives, and improved protection mechanisms for informants to encourage reporting and enhance community cooperation.

Theme 8: Socioeconomic Pressures (Poverty and Unemployment)

Socioeconomic conditions were identified as significant underlying contributors to crime in the Province of La Union. Respondents consistently linked poverty, unemployment, and unstable sources of income to increased crime incidence. As one respondent stated, “*Maraming pagnanakaw dahil hirap sa buhay at walang permanenteng trabaho*” (R1), while another noted that crime patterns tend to increase during periods of limited livelihood opportunities. These observations suggest that economic instability plays a crucial role in shaping criminal behavior, particularly in the occurrence of petty and property-related crimes.

These findings can be explained through Strain Theory, which posits that individuals may resort to criminal behavior when legitimate means of achieving economic stability are limited. In the context of La Union, the absence of stable employment and the seasonal nature of livelihood opportunities create pressure that may push individuals toward illegal activities as a means of survival.

Similarly, Becker’s Economic Theory of Crime (1968) explains that individuals make rational decisions by weighing the potential benefits and risks of engaging in criminal activity. When legitimate income opportunities are insufficient, the perceived benefits of committing crimes such as theft or other survival-driven offenses may outweigh the potential costs. This perspective highlights that crime, in many cases, is not only a moral issue but also an economic decision influenced by structural conditions.

In addition, Routine Activity Theory suggests that economically motivated crimes are more likely to occur in environments where opportunities are present and guardianship is limited. In areas with economic hardship, increased motivation to offend combined with weak supervision may create conditions conducive to crime.

In response to these challenges, programs such as Batang Mahirap: Edukasyon Mo, Sagot Ko aim to address long-term economic vulnerability by promoting education and youth development, thereby reducing future incentives for criminal behavior. Similarly, Project SAGIP ANGHEL addresses the social consequences of poverty by protecting vulnerable individuals and families, helping to prevent economic stress from escalating into criminal activity.

Yet, while these initiatives contribute to addressing immediate and long-term concerns, their effectiveness depends on sustained implementation, accessibility, and coordination among stakeholders. Addressing socioeconomic drivers of crime requires multi-sectoral collaboration, involving not only law enforcement but also local government units, educational institutions, and social welfare agencies.

Proposed Action Plan to Enhance Crime Prevention in the Province of La Union

Based on the findings of this study, several operational, structural, and socio-economic challenges were identified as contributing factors to the occurrence of index and non-index crimes in the Province of La Union. While crime solution rates remained high, persistent issues such as insufficient police resources, geographical barriers, governance coordination gaps, limited community participation, and socio-economic pressures require strategic intervention to sustain and further improve public safety.

In response to these identified problem areas, a comprehensive and multi-sectoral Proposed Action Plan was developed. The plan outlines specific objectives, strategies, responsible agencies, implementation time frames, and expected outcomes aimed at strengthening crime prevention efforts in the province. The proposed measures

emphasize proactive policing, stronger LGU–PNP collaboration, enhanced community engagement, and long-term socio-economic interventions to ensure sustainable peace and order throughout La Union.

Proposed Action Plan to Enhance Crime Prevention in the Province of La Union

Key Problem Area	Objective	Proposed Actions / Strategies	Responsible Agency / Office	Time Frame	Expected Outcome
1. Insufficient Police Personnel and Mobility	To improve police visibility and response time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request additional police personnel deployment Procure and maintain patrol vehicles (4×4, motorcycles) Ensure adequate fuel and maintenance allocation 	PNP–La Union PPO PNP Regional Office LGUs	(1–2 years)	Increased police presence, faster response time, improved patrol coverage
2. Geographical and Environmental Constraints	To ensure access to remote and mountainous barangays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deploy motorcycles and establish detachment outposts Utilize community reporting systems in far-flung areas Coordinate with LGUs for road and bridge improvement 	PNP–La Union PPO LGUs DPWH	(1–3 years)	Reduced response delays, increased police reach in GIDAs
3. Inconsistent LGU Support and Weak Governance Coordination	To strengthen LGU–PNP partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institutionalize regular Peace and Order Council meetings Establish MOUs for resource-sharing (fuel, logistics) Ensure consistent enforcement of local ordinances 	LGUs PNP Peace and Order Councils	Immediately and ongoing (within 3–6 months, continuous annually)	Improved governance coordination and sustained crime prevention support
4. Low Community	To increase public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct regular barangay crime 	PNP Barangay	Within 6–12 months	Increased crime reporting,

Cooperation and Crime Awareness	participation in crime prevention	prevention seminars <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch awareness campaigns on reporting procedures • Strengthen Community Crime Watch groups 	Officials BPATs	(continuous yearly implementation)	stronger community–police trust
5. Weak Capacity of BPATs and Barangay Peacekeepers	To enhance community-based security mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide regular training for BPAT members • Supply basic equipment (radios, flashlights, vests) • Integrate BPATs in patrol and reporting systems 	PNP LGUs Barangay Councils	Within 12–24 months	More effective BPAT operations and early crime detection
6. Socioeconomic Factors Driving Crime	To reduce poverty-related and petty crimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support livelihood and youth employment programs • Partner with schools, NGOs, and churches for values education 	Provincial Government LGUs NGOs	3–5 years (long-term implementation)	Reduced poverty-driven crimes and strengthened social cohesion

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This chapter presents the major conclusions derived from the findings of the study and provides recommendations to strengthen crime prevention efforts of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in the Province of La Union. The conclusions are organized according to the Statement of the Problem, and the recommendations are practical and responsive to the realities experienced by law enforcement personnel in the province.

Based on the findings, the following conclusions were drawn:

1. The PNP in La Union utilizes a combination of traditional policing and community-oriented strategies in crime prevention. Police visibility through patrols and checkpoints remains central, supported by crime mapping, strategic deployment, and coordination with local communities. Crime prevention is implemented as a shared responsibility between the police and the public, anchored on visibility, flexibility, and collaboration.
2. Crime prevention efforts are challenged by interconnected factors, including insufficient personnel, limited mobility and logistical support, outdated equipment, difficult geographical conditions, inconsistent LGU support, weak ordinance enforcement, and low community cooperation. Socioeconomic issues such as poverty and unemployment further contribute to crime occurrence

3. These challenges reduce the overall effectiveness of crime prevention. Limited resources affect patrol coverage and response time, while weak coordination and social pressures increase vulnerability to crime. Collectively, these factors impact operational efficiency and public trust.
4. Enhancing crime prevention in La Union requires strengthened collaboration among the PNP, LGUs, barangays, and communities. Sustainable improvements depend not only on increased police presence but also on improved governance support, community engagement, and coordinated multi-sectoral action.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the conclusions of the study, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. Sustain and further strengthen police visibility through regular foot and mobile patrols, supported by crime data analysis and strategic deployment.
2. Enhance community-based policing by expanding BPAT training and deepening Police Anti Criminality Plans and other initiatives.
3. Increase the establishment of detachment outposts and continue adaptive strategies such as the use of alternative transport to improve access to remote barangays.
4. Adopt the Proposed Action Plan to Enhance Crime Prevention in the Province of La Union.

For Local Government Units (LGUs)

5. Provide consistent logistical and financial support to police operations, particularly in fuel assistance, vehicle maintenance, and operational needs.
6. Strengthen the enforcement of local ordinances through closer coordination with barangay officials and BPATs.
7. Actively participate in Peace and Order Councils and support police-led crime prevention programs.

For Barangay Officials and the Community

8. Encourage active community involvement in crime prevention through participation in BPATs, timely reporting of incidents, and attendance in crime prevention seminars.
9. Promote trust and cooperation between the police and the community to reduce fear of retaliation and improve information sharing.

For Future Researchers

12. Conduct further studies on police response time, crime solution efficiency, and the impact of Police Community Relations programs on crime reduction.
13. Explore comparative studies across provinces to identify best practices applicable to similar geographical and socioeconomic contexts.

In conclusion, the study shows that while the PNP in the Province of La Union continues to demonstrate commitment, adaptability, and dedication to crime prevention, its efforts are constrained by operational, governance, and socioeconomic challenges. Crime prevention in the province is most effective when police strategies are supported by strong LGU involvement and active community participation. Strengthening collaboration, addressing


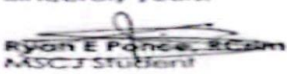


institutional limitations, and investing in long-term social and preventive programs will help build a safer, more resilient, and more inclusive public safety environment for the people of La Union.

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APPENDIX A

Request for permission to conduct a research study

 <p>CICOSAT COLLEGES Ungtat, City Of San Fernando, La Union, Philippines Tel. No. (072) 242-2498 / (072) 407-1118 Email address: cicosat@yahoo.com</p>									
<p>May 28, 2025</p> <p>FCOL REDENTOR C ULSANO Acting Provincial Director Philippine National Police La Union Provincial Office Camp Diego Silang, Carlatan City of San Fernando, La Union</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>COMMENT</td> <td>DATE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S3,</td> <td>06.01.25</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Pls provide data.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;">APD</td> </tr> </table>	COMMENT	DATE	S3,	06.01.25	Pls provide data.		APD	
COMMENT	DATE								
S3,	06.01.25								
Pls provide data.									
APD									
<p>Subject: Request for Permission to Conduct a Research Study</p> <p>Dear Sir:</p> <p>Greetings!</p> <p>The undersigned is a student of CICOSAT COLLEGES, currently conducting a thesis entitled "Crime Pattern in the Province of La Union: A Study on Index and Non-index Crimes" as part of the academic requirements for the completion of his Master of Science in Criminal Justice with specialization in Criminology.</p> <p>The objective of this study is to analyze the frequency, distribution, and types of crimes, both index and non-index, within the Province of La Union from January 2023 to December 2024. It aims to identify crime trends, assess the effectiveness of current prevention strategies, and offer data-driven recommendations for enhancing public safety. In line with this, the undersigned request permission to your good office to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access and review relevant crime statistics, reports, or summary data; 2. Visit selected municipal and city police stations; and 3. Conduct interviews with selected police personnel and barangay officials who may provide insight into crime-related trends and enforcement efforts. <p>Please be assured that all information gathered will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and used solely for academic purposes. Any sensitive or personally identifiable data will be excluded from the study, in compliance with ethical standards.</p> <p>I hope for your favorable response to this request. Thank you very much for your kind consideration and support in the pursuit of academic research.</p> <p>Sincerely yours,</p> <p> Ryan E Ponce, SCJm MSCJ Student</p> <p>Noted by:</p> <p> MICHELLE MABEL A. BAGTASO, PhD CJ Research Adviser</p> <p style="text-align: right;">  PMS / Ponce ET 13:50 PM / 6-3-25 </p>									

APPENDIX B
 Validation Letter



CICOSAT COLLEGES
Lingsat, City Of San Fernando, La Union, Philippines
Tel. No. (072) 242-2698 / (072) 607-1118
Email address: cicosat@yahoo.com

PLTCOL BENJIE DAIREU A UMALLA

Chief, Provincial Operations and Management Unit (POMU)
La Union Provincial Office
Camp Diego Silang, Carlatan
City of San Fernando, La Union

Sir:

Greetings!

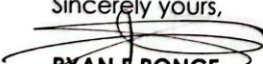
The undersigned is currently conducting a research study entitled "Crime Pattern in the Province of La Union: A Study on Index and Non-Index Crimes" in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master's Degree in Criminal Justice with specialization in Criminology.

In line with this, the undersigned respectfully seeks the assistance of your esteemed office in reviewing and validating his survey questionnaire and interview guide. Your insights, comments, and suggestions will be greatly appreciated, as they will help improve the quality and accuracy of the research.

Rest assured that all information gathered will be treated with strict confidentiality and will be used solely for academic purposes.


Thank You and More Power!

Sincerely yours,


RYAN E PONCE

Researcher

Noted by:


MICHELLE MABEL A. BAGTASO, Ph.D. CJ
Adviser

Received by:


PLTCOL BENJIE DAIREU A. UMALLA

OPERATION OFFICER, LUPPO

JULY 5, 2025



CICOSAT COLLEGES
Lingsat, City Of San Fernando, La Union, Philippines
Tel. No. (072) 242-2698 / (072) 607-1118
Email address: cicosat@yahoo.com

PMAJ ROMEL D CENTINO
Chief of Police
Aringay Municipal Police Station
Brgy Poblacion, Aringay, La Union

Sir:

Greetings!

The undersigned is currently conducting a research study entitled "Crime Pattern in the Province of La Union: A Study on Index and Non-Index Crimes" in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master's Degree in Criminal Justice with specialization in Criminology.

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Rest assured that all information gathered will be treated with strict confidentiality and will be used solely for academic purposes.


Thank You and More Power!

Sincerely yours,


RYAN E PONCE
Researcher

Noted by:


MICHELLE MABEL A. BAGTASO, Ph.D. CJ
Adviser

Received by:

PMAJ ROMEL D CENTINO
COP, ARINGAY PS



CICOSAT COLLEGES
Lingsat, City Of San Fernando, La Union, Philippines
Tel. No. (072) 242-2698 / (072) 607-1118
Email address: cicosat@yahoo.com

PLT FERDINAND E ABENES
Chief, Investigation Section
Bauang Police Station
Brgy Santiago, Bauang, La Union

Sir:

Greetings!


The undersigned is currently conducting a research study entitled "Crime Pattern in the Province of La Union: A Study on Index and Non-Index Crimes" in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master's Degree in Criminal Justice with specialization in Criminology.

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Rest assured that all information gathered will be treated with strict confidentiality and will be used solely for academic purposes.

Thank You and More Power!

Sincerely yours,


RYAN E PONCE
Researcher

Noted by:


MICHELLE MABEL A. BAGTASO, Ph.D. CJ
Adviser

RECEIVED BY:


PLT FERDINAND ABENES

APPENDIX C
 Validation Result




CICOSAT COLLEGES
 Lingsat, City of San Fernando, La Union, Philippines 2500
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 Email address: clicosat@yahoo.com

VALIDATION QUESTIONNAIRE

ITEM	Rating				WM	D.E.R
	4	3	2	1		
1. The instructions provided are clear and easy to follow across all sections of the data gathering instrument.	/					
2. Each item is easy to read and understand.	/					
3. The layout and formatting of each item are visually appealing, with appropriate spacing.	/					
4. The data gathering instrument is comprehensive, covering all areas relevant to the study.	/					
5. Each item focuses on a specific concept or idea.	/					
6. The items are objective, with responses that are neither biased nor leading.	/					
7. The items are aligned with the explicit and implicit objectives of the study.	/					
8. The items are distinct from one another, with no overlap or duplication.	/					
				AWM		

Legend		
Rate	Numerical Evaluation	Descriptive equivalent rating
4	3.26 – 4.00	Highly Valid
3	2.51 – 3.25	Valid
2	1.76 – 2.50	Fairly Valid
1	1.00 – 1.75	Not Valid

Name and Signature of Validator: 
 Prita Bente Daimeli A. UMALLA
 JULY 3, 2025



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VALIDATION QUESTIONNAIRE

ITEM	Rating				WM	D.E.R
	4	3	2	1		
1. The instructions provided are clear and easy to follow across all sections of the data gathering instrument.	✓					
2. Each item is easy to read and understand.	✓					
3. The layout and formatting of each item are visually appealing, with appropriate spacing.	✓					
4. The data gathering instrument is comprehensive, covering all areas relevant to the study.	✓					
5. Each item focuses on a specific concept or idea.	✓					
6. The items are objective, with responses that are neither biased nor leading.	✓					
7. The items are aligned with the explicit and implicit objectives of the study.	✓					
8. The items are distinct from one another, with no overlap or duplication.	✓					
				AWM		

Legend		
Rate	Numerical Evaluation	Descriptive equivalent rating
4	3.26 – 4.00	Highly Valid
3	2.51 – 3.25	Valid
2	1.76 – 2.50	Fairly Valid
1	1.00 – 1.75	Not Valid

Name and Signature of Validator: PRASIT ROBERTO D. CENYANO



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VALIDATION QUESTIONNAIRE

ITEM	Rating				WM	D.E.R
	4	3	2	1		
1. The instructions provided are clear and easy to follow across all sections of the data gathering instrument.	/					
2. Each item is easy to read and understand.						
3. The layout and formatting of each item are visually appealing, with appropriate spacing.	/					
4. The data gathering instrument is comprehensive, covering all areas relevant to the study.	/					
5. Each item focuses on a specific concept or idea.	/					
6. The items are objective, with responses that are neither biased nor leading.	/					
7. The items are aligned with the explicit and implicit objectives of the study.	/					
8. The items are distinct from one another, with no overlap or duplication.	/					
				AWM		

Legend		
Rate	Numerical Evaluation	Descriptive equivalent rating
4	3.26 – 4.00	Highly Valid
3	2.51 – 3.25	Valid
2	1.76 – 2.50	Fairly Valid
1	1.00 – 1.75	Not Valid

Name and Signature of Validator: PLT FERDINAND E. ABENES

Appendix D

Transcription Of Key Informant Interviews

This section presents the transcription of the Key Informant Interviews conducted with selected respondents composed of Philippine National Police (PNP) personnel and members of the Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT) in the Province of La Union. The interview questions were based on the validated interview guide and aimed to gather information regarding the status of crimes, crime prevention strategies, challenges encountered by law enforcement, and recommendations to improve public safety. To maintain confidentiality, respondents were identified using codes such as R1, R2, R3 up to R30.

Interview Transcription

1. Based on your experience, how would you describe the trend of index crimes in your area from 2022 to 2024?

Responses: “Sa aming obserbasyon, pabago-bago ang trend ng crimes depende sa sitwasyon sa komunidad.” (R11 – PNP) “May mga pagkakataon na bumababa ang kaso dahil sa mas madalas na patrol.” (R18 – PNP) “Sa ilang barangay, nananatiling stable ang mga kaso dahil sa police visibility.” (R20 – PNP)

2. What index crimes are most commonly reported in your area? Why do you think these crimes occur frequently?

Responses: “Maraming pagnanakaw dahil hirap sa buhay at walang permanenteng trabaho.” (R1 – PNP) “Napipilitang gumawa ng masama para matustusan ang pamilya.” (R4 – PNP) “Karaniwang kaso ay theft at physical injuries dahil sa personal na alitan.” (R22 – PNP)

3. How would you describe the trend of non-index crimes in your jurisdiction during the same period?

Responses “Mas marami ang naitatala ngayon dahil sa mas aktibong police operations laban sa illegal drugs.” (R24 – PNP)

“May mga kaso rin ng illegal gambling at paglabag sa ordinances.” (R27 – BPAT)

4. In what areas or barangays are crimes most likely to occur? What factors do you think contribute to this?

Responses “Karaniwan sa mga mataong lugar o malapit sa commercial establishments.” (R12 – PNP) “Sa mga barangay na maraming tao at may nightlife activities.” (R23 – BPAT)

5. What crime prevention strategies are currently implemented by the PNP in your area?

Responses “Ginagawa naming araw-araw ang foot patrol kahit kulang sa tao para lang maramdaman ng komunidad ang presensya ng pulis.” (R4 – PNP) “Malaki ang naitutulong ng checkpoint at visibility lalo na sa gabi.” (R7 – PNP) “Pinaprioritize namin ang mga lugar na mataas ang crime rate.” (R5 – PNP)

6. How effective are foot and mobile patrols in preventing crimes in your area? Why or why not?

Responses “Malaki ang epekto ng police visibility dahil natatakot gumawa ng krimen ang iba kapag may pulis.” (R14 – PNP) “Kapag madalas ang patrol, mas nagiging alerto ang komunidad.” (R21 – PNP)

7. What role do barangay officials and BPAT members play in crime prevention activities?

Response “Mas mabilis ang responde kapag may BPAT dahil may alam sila sa lugar.” (R10 – BPAT) “Ang mga BPAT ay malaking tulong lalo na sa pagbabantay sa gabi.” (R3 – BPAT)

“Ang BPAT ang tumutulong sa pagbibigay ng impormasyon sa pulis.” (R17 – BPAT)

8. How does coordination with Local Government Units (LGUs) help in the implementation of crime prevention strategies?

Responses “Mas madali ang trabaho kapag supportive ang mayor at konseho.” (R5 – PNP) “Umaasa kami minsan sa LGU para sa budget ng operasyon.” (R2 – PNP) “May LGU na nagbibigay ng tulong tulad ng gasolina, pero meron ding halos wala.” (R1 – PNP) “Mas madali sana kung lahat ng LGU ay supportive.” (R5 – PNP)

9. Are data-driven approaches such as crime mapping or monitoring used in your operations?

Responses “Ginagamit namin ang crime map para malaman kung saan madalas ang insidente.” (R3 – PNP) “Nakatulong ang data monitoring sa pagpapalano ng patrol schedule.” (R6 – PNP) “Mas nagiging maayos ang deployment ng pulis kapag may data.” (R19 – PNP)

10. What are the major challenges you encounter in implementing crime prevention activities?

Responses “Madalas na-overtime kami kasi limitado lang ang bilang ng pulis na naka-duty.” (R8 – PNP) “Iisa lang ang mobile namin, minsan pa ay sira o walang gasolina.” (R2 – PNP) “Gumagamit kami ng sariling cellphone para sa communication.” (R4 – PNP) “May barangay na hindi mahigpit sa pagpapatupad ng curfew.” (R3 – BPAT)

11. How do geographical factors affect police response and patrol operations?

Responses “May mga barangay sa bundok na halos dalawang oras lakarin bago marating.” (R1 – PNP) “Minsan kailangan naming maglakad papunta sa bundok dahil hindi naaabot ng patrol car.” (R10 – BPAT) “Kapag umuulan, hindi talaga madaraan ang mga liblib na lugar.” (R4 – PNP)

12. How does manpower shortage affect police visibility and crime response in your area?

Responses “Madalas na-overtime kami kasi limitado lang ang bilang ng pulis na naka-duty.” (R8 – PNP) “Kapag kulang ang tauhan, nababawasan ang patrol at mas matagal ang response.” (R21 – PNP)

13. In what ways does community cooperation influence crime reporting and prevention?

Responses “May mga tao na takot magsumbong dahil sa posibleng ganti.” (R2 – PNP) “Marami ang walang alam sa tamang proseso ng pag-report.” (R3 – BPAT) “Kapag may cooperation ang komunidad, mas mabilis naming nalalaman ang mga insidente.” (R26 – PNP)

14. How would you describe the level of collaboration between the PNP, LGUs, barangay officials, and other stakeholders?

Responses “Maganda ang coordination lalo na sa peace and order meetings.” (R18 – PNP) “Malaki ang tulong ng barangay officials sa pagpapanatili ng kapayapaan.” (R13 – BPAT)

15. What local ordinances help in crime prevention? Are these ordinances properly enforced?

Responses “May curfew ordinance na nakakatulong sa pagpigil ng krimen.” (R9 – BPAT) “May ilang barangay na mahigpit ang pagpapatupad ng ordinances.” (R23 – BPAT)

16. What support do you usually receive from LGUs in terms of logistics, funding, or coordination?

Responses “Karaniwan ay gasolina, patrol vehicles, at logistical support.” (R20 – PNP) “Minsan tumutulong din sila sa funding ng operasyon.” (R24 – PNP)

17. In your opinion, what strategies are most effective in preventing crime in your area?

Responses “Police visibility at regular patrol ang pinakaepektibo.” (R11 – PNP) “Malaki rin ang tulong ng cooperation ng community.” (R17 – BPAT)

18. What improvements would you recommend to enhance crime prevention and public safety?

Responses “Dagdag na police personnel at patrol vehicles.” (R29 – PNP) “Mas modern na communication equipment.” (R30 – PNP)

19. How can collaboration among the PNP, LGUs, and the community be strengthened?

Responses “Sa pamamagitan ng regular meetings at seminars tungkol sa crime prevention.” (R16 – PNP) “Importante ang patuloy na coordination sa barangay.” (R27 – BPAT)

20. Is there anything else you would like to add regarding crime prevention and public safety in your area?

Responses “Malaki ang papel ng komunidad sa pagpapanatili ng kapayapaan kaya mahalaga ang cooperation ng lahat.” (R29 – PNP)

“Kapag nagtutulungan ang pulis, LGU, at komunidad, mas nagiging epektibo ang crime prevention.” (R19 – PNP)

Interview Guide

(For PNP Personnel and Barangay Peacekeeping Action Teams)

Purpose of the Interview

This interview guide is designed to validate the findings of the study regarding the status of index and non-index crimes, crime prevention strategies, factors influencing crime occurrence, and challenges encountered by the Philippine National Police (PNP) in the Province of La Union. The responses will be used solely for academic purposes and treated with confidentiality.

Part I. Respondent Profile

(For contextual understanding only)

1. Current Position/Designation:
2. Length of Service in the PNP / BPAT:
3. Area of Assignment (Municipality/City):
4. Years Assigned in the Current Area:

Part II. Status of Index and Non-Index Crimes

Based on your experience, how would you describe the trend of index crimes in your area from 2022 to 2024?

- Increasing
- Decreasing

- Fluctuating
- Stable

Please explain your answer.

2. What index crimes are most commonly reported in your area? Why do you think these crimes occur frequently?
3. How would you describe the trend of non-index crimes in your jurisdiction during the same period?
4. In what areas or barangays are crimes most likely to occur? What factors do you think contribute to this?

Part III. Crime Prevention Strategies

5. What crime prevention strategies are currently implemented by the PNP in your area? (e.g., patrols, checkpoints, BPAT deployment, information campaigns)
6. How effective are foot and mobile patrols in preventing crimes in your area? Why or why not?
7. What role do barangay officials and BPAT members play in crime prevention activities?
8. How does coordination with Local Government Units (LGUs) help in the implementation of crime prevention strategies?
9. Are data-driven approaches such as crime mapping or monitoring used in your operations? If yes, how helpful are they?

Part IV. Challenges Encountered in Crime Prevention

10. What are the major challenges you encounter in implementing crime prevention activities?
 - Lack of personnel
 - Limited patrol vehicles/logistics
 - Communication and technology issues
 - Geographical constraints
 - Limited LGU support
 - Low community cooperation

Please explain.

11. How do geographical factors (mountains, poor roads, weather conditions) affect police response and patrol operations?

12. How does manpower shortage affect police visibility and crime response in your area?
13. In what ways does community cooperation or lack thereof influence crime reporting and prevention?

Part V. Collaboration and Governance

14. How would you describe the level of collaboration between the PNP, LGUs, barangay officials, and other stakeholders?
15. What local ordinances (e.g., curfew, anti-loitering) help in crime prevention? Are these ordinances properly enforced?
16. What support do you usually receive from LGUs in terms of logistics, funding, or coordination?

Part VI. Implications and Recommendations

17. In your opinion, what strategies are most effective in preventing crime in your area? Why?
18. What improvements or additional measures would you recommend to enhance crime prevention and public safety?
19. How can collaboration among the PNP, LGUs, and the community be strengthened?
20. Is there anything else you would like to add regarding crime prevention and public safety in your area?

Closing Statement

Thank you very much for your time and cooperation. Your responses will greatly contribute to the validation of this study and to the formulation of recommendations aimed at improving crime prevention and public safety in the Province of La Union.



PMSG RYAN E PONCE

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PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date of Birth: October 7, 1987

Gender: Male

Civil Status: Single

Professional Profile

A dedicated law enforcement officer with more than fifteen (15) years of service in the Philippine National Police. Experienced in intelligence operations, criminal intelligence analysis, surveillance activities, and internal security operations. Proven ability to conduct investigations, gather intelligence information, and support law enforcement operations aimed at maintaining peace and order.

Professional Qualifications

- Police Master Sergeant (PMSg), Philippine National Police
- Current Designation: Intelligence Tracker / OPR II, Regional Intelligence Division, PRO 1
- More than 15 years of experience in police service
- NAPOLCOM PNP Entrance Eligible
- Registered Criminologist (RA 6506)

Core Competencies

- Criminal Intelligence Gathering and Analysis
- Surveillance and Tracking Operations
- Counter-Insurgency and Internal Security Operations
- Law Enforcement Operations and Case Monitoring
- Informant Handling and Intelligence Networking
- Firearms Handling and Marksmanship
- Search, Surveillance, and Operational Planning

Awards And Commendations

- La Union Outstanding Police Officer – Anti-Narcotics Division (2007)
- Medalya ng Kadakilaan – 1
- Medalya ng Sugatang Magiting – 1
- Medalya ng Papuri – 29
- Medalya ng Kagalingan – 21
- Medalya ng Kasanayan – 15
- Medalya ng Paglilingkod sa Luzon – 10

- Medalya ng Paglilingkod Laban sa Kriminalidad – 8
- Medalya ng Pagtulong sa Nasalanta – 4
- Medalya ng Pagkilala – 2
- Medalya ng Ugnayang Pampulisya – 2
- Medalya ng Paglaban sa Manliligalig – 2
- Authority to Wear Handgun Marksmanship Badge – 1

Educational Background

Master in Public Administration

Lyceum Northwestern University

Bachelor of Science in Criminology

University of Luzon

Trainings And Specialized Courses

- Intelligence Basic Course
- Modified PNP Special Counter-Insurgency Operations Unit Training
- Police Senior (PS) Junior Leadership Course
- Police Senior (PS) Field Training Program
- Police Senior (PS) Basic Recruit Course