

Chapter 18

Ensuring Security, Public Order, and Safety

A safe, orderly and peaceful society is desired by the Filipinos for the Philippines.¹ A safe and secure environment facilitates the effective and sustained delivery of services and fosters increased investment and economic growth. Along with peace, increased security, public order, and safety shall therefore be pursued throughout the region. This shall entail greater collaboration among all sectors of society since peace thrives best in an environment of cooperation.

Assessment and Challenges

Crime volume in the region was up by 6.27 percent from 2014 to 2015 with 64,437 cases registered in 2015. The increase was due to the surge in non-index crimes (15.86 percent), or crimes that are violative of special laws and local ordinances such as illegal logging, illegal fishing, and illegal drugs. More than 65 percent of the crimes committed in 2015 were non-index crimes. (*see Table 18.1*)

Index crimes, on the other hand, dropped by 8.04 percent in 2015. Index crimes, as defined by the Philippine National Police (PNP), involve crimes against persons, such as murder, homicide, physical injury and rape, and crimes against property such as robbery, theft, carjacking/ carjacking and cattle rustling. Such crimes are serious in nature and occur with sufficient frequency and regularity that the PNP uses them

as index to the crime situation.² The decline in the volume of index crimes was attributed to the intensified crime prevention campaign involving patrols and security operations.

Crime remains a concern in the region especially in the urban areas. In 2015, Central Visayas ranked third among the country's regions in crime incidence.

A criminal case is considered solved when: (1) the offender has been identified, taken into custody, and charged before the prosecutor's office based on sufficient evidence, (2) when some elements beyond police control prevent the arrest of the offender, such as when the victim refuses to prosecute after the offender is identified, dies or absconds, and (3) the arrest of one offender can solve several crimes or several offenders may be arrested in the process of solving one crime.³ Based on data of the PNP, there appears to be an increasing improvement in the region's crime

¹ A high-trust and peaceful society where human security is assured is one of the aspirations of the Filipino people for the Philippines as embodied in AmBisyon Natin 2040.

² Kyodo News, "Philippines' crime rate falls 13 percent in 2016," *ABS-CBN News*, last modified February 13, 2017, <http://news.abs-cbn.com/news/02/13/17/philippines-crime-rate-falls-13-percent-in-2016>.

³ National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) (Memorandum Circular No. 94-017).

Table 18.1 Crime Volume by Province, 2014 and 2015

	INDEX CRIMES			NON-INDEX CRIMES			TOTAL CRIMES		
	2014	2015	PERCENT INC/(DEC)	2014	2015	PERCENT INC/(DEC)	2014	2015	PERCENT INC/(DEC)
Central Visayas	24,399	22,438	-8.04	36,249	41,999	15.86	60,648	64,437	6.27
Bohol	3,650	3,667	0.47	4,192	5,551	32.42	7,842	9,218	17.55
Cebu	16,864	15,480	-8.21	25,637	29,385	14.62	42,501	44,865	5.56
Negros Oriental	3,769	3,173	-15.81	6,217	6,800	9.38	9,986	9,973	-0.13
Siquijor	116	118	1.72	203	263	29.56	319	381	19.44

Source : Philippine Statistics Authority

Table 18.2 Crime Solution Efficiency, 2014 and 2015

	CRIME INCIDENCE		TOTAL CRIMES SOLVED		CRIME SOLUTION EFFICIENCY (%)	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
Central Visayas	60,648	64,437	27,397	36,537	45.17	56.70
Bohol	7,842	9,218	2,864	4,388	36.52	47.60
Cebu	42,501	44,865	19,236	26,761	45.26	59.65
Negros Oriental	9,986	9,973	5,066	5,199	50.73	52.13
Siquijor	319	381	231	189	72.41	49.61

Source : Philippine Statistics Authority

solution efficiency rate. Crime solution efficiency is the percentage of solved cases out of the total number of crime incidents recorded. In 2011, the region's crime solution efficiency was 37.99 percent. It improved to 45.17 percent in 2014, and further to 56.70 percent in 2015. (see Table 18.2) The rates were higher and better than the national averages during the said years. The improved efficiency in solving crimes could be partly attributable to the continuous conduct of investigation trainings for PNP personnel that enhanced their capability and competency to conduct crime investigations.

Despite the improvement in the crime solution efficiency, however, the figure suggests that about 43 percent of the crime incidents remain unsolved. More work is still needed in the area of resolving crimes.

In the area of illegal drugs, approximately 95 percent of the barangays in Bohol, Cebu, and Siquijor are affected by illegal drugs, with 1,344 barangays classified as slightly affected, 979 moderately affected, and 5 barangays seriously affected. (see Table 18.3)

Table 18.3 Barangay Drug Affection, as of December 2016^{1/}

PROVINCE/ CITY	NO. OF BRGYS.	AFFECTED BRGYS.	DRUG AFFECTATION			UNAFFECTED BRGYS.
			SLIGHT	MODERATE	SERIOUS	
Cebu City	80	80	71	9	0	0
Mandaue City	27	27	23	4	0	0
Lapu-Lapu City	30	29	27	2	0	1
Cebu Province	1,066	1,006	719	282	5	60
Bohol Province	1,109	1,082	413	669	0	27
Siquijor Province	134	101	91	13	0	30
Total	2,446	2,328	1,344	979	5	118

Note: ^{1/} Excludes Negros Oriental
 Source: *Philippine National Police 7*

Strategic Framework

Public order and security are essential elements in building the foundation for inclusive growth, a high trust and resilient society, and a globally competitive knowledge economy. Hence, the region aims to enhance internal stability, safety, and public order by addressing criminality, building the capacity and capability of law enforcement agencies to maintain public order and safety, and strengthening institutions and mechanisms that foster cooperation, collaboration, and the convergence of services, programs, and projects on peace and order.

Strategies

Reduce criminality and improve crime prevention. The region through its law enforcement agencies shall intensify the efforts to reduce criminality by strict enforcement of laws and the continued pursuit of crime prevention activities with stakeholders. Coordination among law enforcement agencies as well as the local government units shall also be strengthened to attain unity of purpose of reducing criminality and/or preventing their commission.

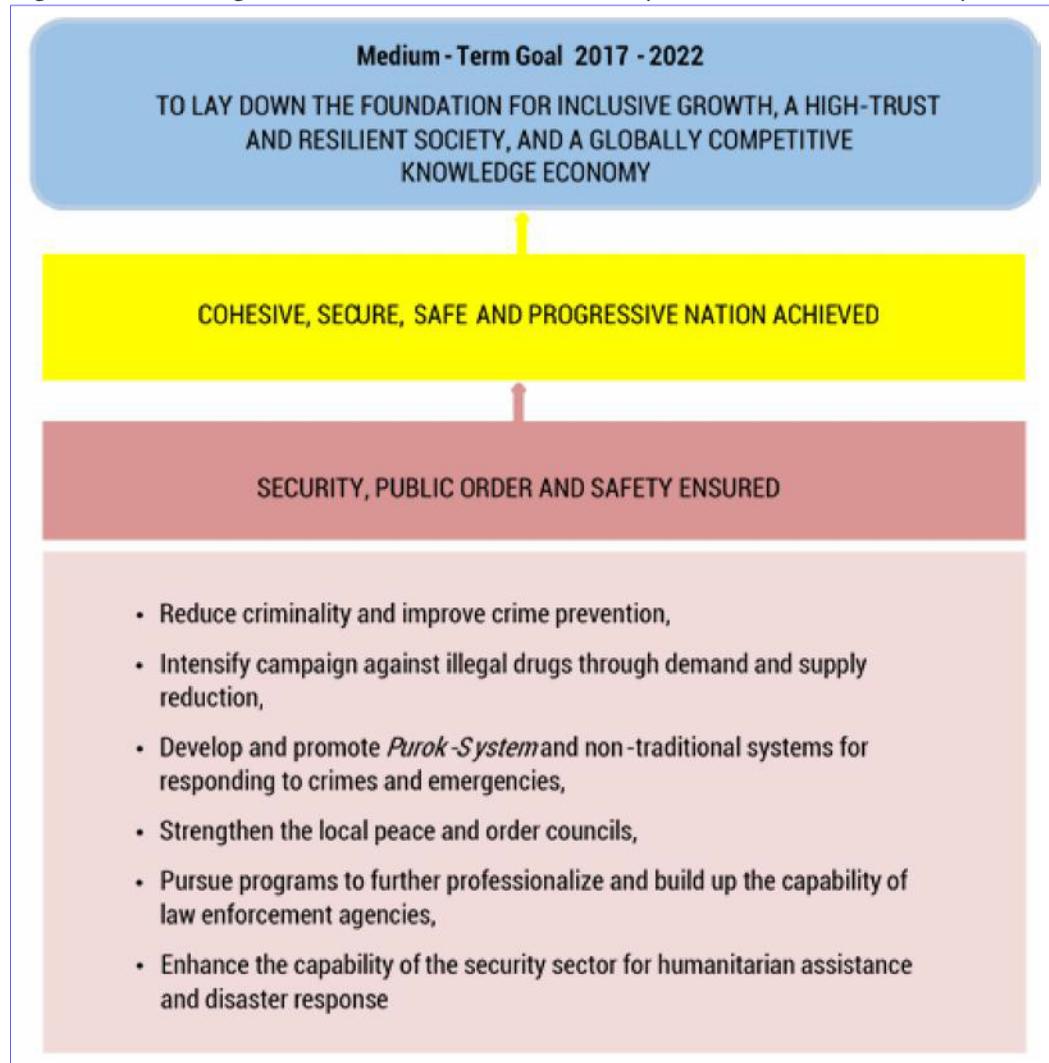
Police visibility shall be enhanced especially in crime hot spots by increasing the number of policemen who are the first line of defense against crime. The region targets a 1:500 police-to-population ratio by 2030.

Develop and promote *purok-system* and non-traditional systems for responding to crime and emergencies. The *purok-system* as practiced in some municipalities notably San Francisco in Camotes Island, Cebu, appears to be an effective deterrent against criminality. It involves engaging the households in addressing common concerns that include security, public order, and safety. The system will be promoted in other municipalities for adoption.

Non-traditional systems that will enable law enforcers to effectively respond to crimes and emergencies will also be pursued. These include the establishment of an integrated emergency hotline system, and the promotion of social media platforms for crime and emergency reporting.

Pursue programs to further professionalize and build up the capability of law enforcement agencies. The sustained effort to professionalize the military, police, coastguard and other related institutions will translate into effective and credible law enforcement. It will

Figure 18.1 Strategic Framework to Ensure Security, Public Order, and Safety



provide a strong signal to the public of the region’s resolve to uphold the rule of law. Further, this will restore and/or improve the public’s confidence in the region’s law enforcement institutions.

The programs to professionalize the law enforcement agencies should be conducted regularly. More importantly, it shall be anchored on the platform of moral recovery. Accordingly, interventions such as the PNP Values Formation Project shall be intensified and promoted for adoption by the other law enforcement agencies.

Given their critical role in the administration of justice, the continuing professionalization of the law enforcement agencies will include a paradigm

shift that allows law enforcement agents to view their role as integral to obtaining a conviction, rather than simply arresting a suspect. This paradigm shift will definitely impact on speeding up criminal prosecution and the court processes as the law enforcement agents/officers will be focusing on the gathering of evidence sufficient to prosecute a case and obtain a conviction.

To complement the professionalization of the law enforcement agencies, the region shall lobby for the increase in the budget allocations of these agencies to enable them to procure the necessary facilities and equipment for the effective and efficient maintenance of law and order in the region and to address new and emerging security

threats such as cybersecurity. Further, the LGUs shall also be enjoined to provide the necessary support to the law enforcement agencies to improve their mobility, communication and firepower.

Intensify campaign against illegal drugs through demand and supply reduction. The region shall intensify its operations against violations of Republic Act No. 9165 otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

To complement the operations of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and the Philippine National Police, the region shall strengthen or revitalize the Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Council (BADAC) which shall coordinate the anti-drugs campaign at the barangay and community level.

Strengthen the Local Peace and Order Councils. To sustain the gains of the region in its anti-insurgency campaign as well as improve law enforcement, the local peace and order councils (LPOCs) shall be strengthened and made operative to do the following: planning and recommending measures to improve peace and order and public safety, monitoring the

implementation of peace and order programs, and making periodic assessment of the prevailing peace and order situation in their respective jurisdictions. The LPOCs are venues for good governance that allow government-private sector collaboration to improve peace and order and public safety.

The LPOCs also provide the venues that allow the LGUs and the law enforcement agencies, such as the military and the police, to harmonize and align their respective programs, activities and projects (i.e. implementation of programs in conflict areas) towards the collective goal of promoting peace and order, and internal security.

Enhance the capability of the security sector for humanitarian assistance and disaster response. The capacity of security sector agencies will be enhanced to respond to gender and development issues, especially during natural and human-induced disasters.

Legislative Agenda

To strengthen the effectiveness of the strategies, the legislative action outlined in Table 18.4 will be pushed.

Table 18.4 Legislative Agenda to Ensure Security, Public Order, and Safety, 2017-2022

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	RATIONALE
Philippine National Police (PNP) Reorganization and Modernization Act	This aims to further improve the agency's capability in providing better police services for crime prevention, suppression, and investigation.
Mandatory Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC)	In view of the declining pool of trained reservists, the proposal calls for making the ROTC mandatory again in college. The manpower supply of reservists shall be tapped to generate the needed human resources in times of national emergencies, calamities, disasters, and wars, and in support of the government's enhanced anti-crime strategy.
Amendment of the Comprehensive Dangerous Act of 2002	This aims to enhance certain provisions in the law to address the present drug situation in the country and regions, particularly in the enforcement of the law, and the organization and/or functions of concerned government agencies. The amendments will support and complement the active and holistic approach being implemented in addressing the drug problem in the country.