



## CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAM OF AN UPLAND MUNICIPALITY IN THE PHILIPPINES

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**ABSTRACT:** *This study aimed to know the crime prevention programs of the Municipality of Bontoc in Mountain Province as to their indigenous crime prevention programs, the implementation of crime prevention efforts of police and public officials as well as the extent of participation of the residents of the same place. There were 356 respondents of the study who were composed of 44 Bontoc Municipal Police Station personnel, 30 public barangay/municipal/provincial officials, and 282 residents of Bontoc. This study was conducted in the first quarter of 2016, using the combination of qualitative and quantitative approaches to answering the problems of the study. After the investigation, it revealed that indigenous crime prevention practices in Bontoc include pechen system, ator system, maipaila system, and fagfaga system. All these practices are used as means of crime prevention and to some extent indigenous prosecution. The crime prevention program of the Municipality of Bontoc was much implemented relative to the three (3) elements of crime such as motive, opportunity, and instrumentality. The residents sometimes participated in the crime prevention activities, however, the police and official respondents claimed that the residents often participated. The police and public officials had similar perceptions as compared to the residents' evaluation of the implementation of the crime prevention program.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Crime Prevention Program, Indigenous Crime Prevention Program, Motive, Opportunity, Instrumentality, Public Officials*

## INTRODUCTION

Crime is a social phenomenon. This means that crime cannot be eliminated but can be controlled through crime prevention programs which are effectively carried out by



authorities. Crime is a serious issue that affects everyone in society. It is a problem for contemporary societies that can have wide and lasting impacts on victims, their families, and communities. Crime is a violation of societal rules of behavior as interpreted and expressed by the criminal law, which reflects public opinion, traditional values, and the viewpoint of people currently holding social and political power. Individuals who violate these rules are subject to sanctions by state authority, social stigma, and loss of status (Siegel, 2008).

The text of the convention for the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide was adopted by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on 9 December 1948. After obtaining the requisite twenty ratifications required by article XIII, the Convention entered into force on 12 January 1951. Although this is for genocide, it reflects heinous crimes in general (Felson, 2006)

According to the International Center for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC), safety in public institutions such as schools, hospitals, and the Municipal Offices has become a source of concern in the international arena and a central issue concerning the safety of citizens.

The principle “Crime Prevention is Everybody’s Concern” explains that the effort of preventing crime is not the sole responsibility of the police officers, elected public officials, citizens, but all other sectors in the society.

Internationally, several measures have been undertaken through treaties and agreements between and among countries. These are being undertaken during international conventions. Crime experts and law enforcement have long been aware of the complexities of crime and the importance of crime prevention, and some experts published important works widely on the subject. Any plan which reduces or eliminates the level of victimization or the risk of individual participation is defined as crime prevention. It includes government and community-based programs to reduce the incidents of risk factors correlated with criminal participation and the rate of victimization, as well as efforts to change perceptions.



The UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime is a legally-binding instrument through which States parties commit to taking a series of measures against transnational organized crime. These include the creation of domestic offenses to combat the problem, the adoption of new, sweeping frameworks for mutual legal assistance, extradition, law enforcement cooperation and technical assistance, and training (Quilang, 2007).

The three major international drug control treaties are mutually supportive and complementary. An important purpose of the first two treaties is to codify internationally applicable control measures to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes and to prevent their diversion into illicit channels. They also include general provisions on trafficking and drug abuse (Fernandez, 2011).

In line with its campaign to promote crime prevention, the Criminal Identification and Detection Unit (CIDU) has provided a primer on “Crime Prevention: Cooperative Preparedness” to the citizens could also be part of the campaign. This includes how to avoid crime to happen and citizens preparedness against crime in the community, at home or anywhere else. Such primer could go a long way in getting the cooperation of the public in the campaign against criminality in the area (Fernandez, 2011)

His Excellency Fidel V. Ramos, former President of the Philippines outlined his administration's plans for peace and order and crime-fighting. He said that the five-year plan of the government has brought into it not just the recommendations of the top officials of the criminal justice system, but the counsel and experience of those who are in the frontlines in the war against crimes – the police officers out on the beat, investigators, prosecutors, crusaders against violence, judges and jail wardens (Gubatan, 2011).

For the increasing demand for peace, order and security of the ever-growing population in a rapidly changing and developing society, the police force is not enough. To address the problem, under resolution no. 200-157 of the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) approved a Community Oriented Policing System (COPS) Manual to be carried out by the



PNP nationwide. The COPS was adopted from the Koban Police System of Japan which involves the community in the fight against crime.

The 11th United Nations (UN) Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held in 2005 reported that Miguel Coronel, Major General of the Police and Commissioner of the National Police Commission in the Philippines, provides an account of the development of COPS established in the Philippines in 1994. It forms part of the holistic national anti-crime strategy which is now included in the National Crime Prevention Programme adopted in 2004. He emphasizes that the COPS program is 'people-powered', and uses the example of one of the first projects to illustrate its strengths. Following the restoration of democracy in 1986, a pilot initiative BAC-UP was developed in Bacolod City with decentralized community-based police stations at the local level, and modeled on the Japanese 'Koban' system. The project developed very strong police-community links at the local level which has continued to grow and been sustained over a period of 18 years. The COPS system is built on similar principles of high levels of integrity, trust, participation, and civic-mindedness on the part of public officials and citizens (Braga & Weisburd, 2001).

The Institute for Strategic and Development Studies (ISDS), Inc. has undertaken researches on developing a security sector reform index in the Philippines and is geared towards conflict prevention and peace-building through the support of the UN Development Programme (Petras, 2007).

In the consideration and choice of equipment, various areas or aspects must be considered. This includes suitability, reliability, acceptability, availability, authority, training, operation, portability or mobility, cost-effectiveness, interoperability or multi-functionality, and linkages to larger systems.

With the involvement of the community, crime prevention has become everybody's business. To further strengthen the awareness and participation of the community on crime prevention, a Presidential Proclamation No. 461 dated August 31, 1994, declared every first week of September annually as a national crime prevention week. Everybody is enjoined to



be involved to implement the programs and activities on crime prevention. During one celebration of the crime prevention week with the theme “*Sa Crime Prevention, May Magagawa ako*” Benguet Gov. Nestor Fongwan capitalized on the importance of peace and love which starts in the family which eventually spread to the community as instrument in winning the fight against crime. The roles of family and the community are very important in crime prevention (Quilang, 2007).

One of the significant causes of crime is unemployment. Because people do not have a stable job which helps them to pay for everything in their lives such as food and clothes, this situation may lead them to commit a crime to survive. The second cause is migration from rural areas to an urban area. Some people consider that they can have a good life in urban areas. However, some people do not have the knowledge and skills to do anything so they cannot adapt to the new environment. As a result, they are encouraged seduced easily to do unlawful actions. For instance, some naive girls from rural areas going to urban areas are easily cheated to become bad girls which is a kind of crime (Vicente, et. al., 2014).

There is no doubt that numerous problems exist in most modern cities throughout the world. Although traffic congestion, pollution, and overcrowding often occur, many people believe that crime is the most serious problem in urban areas. Television and newspaper reports often tell about that increasing rate.

The PNP is in the front line in preventing the commission of crimes through the active support of the community. The following are some measures undertaken by the PNP:

The PNP Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) in Managing Police Operations (*Lambat-Sibat*) was created based on the Revised PNP Operational Procedure. The *Oplan Lambat-Sibat* was created due to a sudden increase in the index crime volume from 129,161 incidents in 2012 to 521, 191 incidents in 2013 and this is a direct result of a more accurate crime reporting system being implanted by the PNP. However, the abrupt spike has likewise created impressions of a deteriorating crime situation in the country stoked by a couple of tragic/traumatic killings that took place during the first half of the year.



However, contrary to the perceptions of some quarters, the more accurate and reliable crime data has, in fact, placed the PNP in an unprecedented position that allows police executives to accurately assess the effectiveness of current strategies as well as measure the performance of police stations long considered as the cutting edge units of the PNP.

Consequently, it was no less than the leadership of the DILG and the PNP that has been undertaking unparalleled efforts to bear down on crime and public safety in the country starting in the National Capital Region (NCR). This demands no less than extraordinary responses and commitment from the Chiefs of Police (COPs) or Station Commanders (SCs) nationwide.

But random operational audits conducted on a number of police stations revealed the need to further improve the competencies of police executives in the following: identifying and prioritizing crime problems, conducting a thorough crime analysis, developing and executing strategies specific to a geographic area, effectively integrate various resources and expertise to address problems; and consistently assessing strategies and results of its implementation.

The secretary of the DILG Manuel Roxas III even observed that a good number of Commanders in all levels of command are not deliberate in developing and executing strategies. Patrol and specialized units are often operating in silos and thus their approach to crime problems is less programmatic and efforts to effectively bear down on crimes are not being sustained.

It has, therefore, become even more essential that detailed principles, guidelines and procedures are needed not only to help address these weaknesses but likewise guide the COPs or SCs in their regular leadership and management functions. Newer ideas and technology must also be developed to empower police executives to achieve their primary goal of cutting crime and improving public safety in their respective areas of responsibility.



In line with the directives of then DILG Secretary Manuel Roxas III to intensify the police operations in Metro Manila through the "*Oplan Lambat Sibat*" anti-crime strategy, proactive police operations netted in row thirty-nine (39) Wanted Persons in separate police operations conducted from February 18 – March 3, 2015. This was implemented nationwide wherein the place of study was included.

National Capital Region Police Office together with the personnel of Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), and police intelligence services conducted the two-week anti-criminal operations that resulted in the arrest of these criminals. According to the NCRPO Regional Director P/Dir. Carmelo E. Valmorla, this is in line with the current operational thrust of PNP against organized crime groups, wanted persons, anti-illegal drugs and loose firearms,

The 28 other persons arrested were listed as Most Wanted Persons in the Station Level. Each police station is required to report accurate data to monitor the peace and order situation in their area. This is vital for the NCRPO to formulate comprehensive and effective security measures and plans in combating criminality.

The PNP is aiming to improve its performance in neutralizing criminality, with a plan that zeroes in on groups behind crimes such as robberies and holdups.

Dubbed as *Oplan Lambat Sibat*, the PNP plan involves focusing on at least 10 of the most notorious criminal gangs. The PNP director for Intelligence Director Charles Calima Jr. also mentioned that 10 of the 61 active crime gangs are on their priority list.

The DILG Secretary Manuel Roxas III said that of 440 people on the PNP's most wanted person list, 120 had been arrested. Of the 416 members of crime gangs, 52 had been captured and detained. Roxas also said the DILG is strengthening the PNP with equipment and closed-circuit television in police stations and precincts, as well as a crime registry and digitized data capture system and a national emergency hotline (Braga & Weisburd, 2001).



There are several agencies in charge of the enforcement of laws and ordinances. These law enforcement agencies have their strategies in addressing the crimes in their respective places. The Philippine National Police is the prime mover of the Criminal Justice System of the Philippines whereby its personnel are tasked in the prevention of crime.

Republic Act No. 6975 as amended by Republic Act No. 8551, created the PNP. This law mandates that police must protect lives and properties, is working on its fundamental principle of “to serve and to protect”, and it is still serving and protecting its citizenry to the fullest. Although policing has evolved into the millennium as a result of changing demographics, economic pressures and more sophisticated criminal activity and technology, the PNP has managed to perform to the call of times. As crime perpetrators employ vast complexity in the commission of their crimes, today’s policing professionals are equipped with the most current theories of criminology, investigative techniques, law, psychology, evidence collections of forensics and proven studies and strategies.

The public confidence in any police organization is determined by the performance of its police personnel in solving crimes and apprehending offenders. The passage of time, unfortunately, did not result in a perceptible improvement in the prevailing peace and order in the country. Criminals have kept pace with the advancement in the field of science and technology and have grown incomparably more brazen and sophisticated in terms of organization, modus operandi, weaponry, and logistics (Gubatan, 2011).

More so, the seeming inefficient and slow solution of crime incidents not only adversely affects the economic stability but also the entire police organization. In so doing, elements of Organized Crime Groups (OCGs) and criminal/syndicated gangs took advantage of the situation and intensify their trade.

To succeed in crime-fighting capabilities, the government needs to establish a coalition of key agencies such as schools, create job, provide social services and housing, and ensure effective law enforcement policies. Primary prevention addresses individual and family level factors correlated with criminal participation. Individual-level factors, such as attachment to



school and involvement in social activities decrease the probability of criminal involvement. Family level factors, such as consistent parenting skills reduce individual-level risk. Risk factors are additive in nature, as the greater number of risk factors present a greater risk of criminal involvement.

Relative to indigenous crime prevention practices, restorative justice provides three big ideas: (1) repair: crime causes harm and justice requires repairing that harm; (2) encounter: the best way to determine how to do that is to have the parties decide together; and (3) transformation: this can cause fundamental changes in people, relationships and communities (Gubatan, 2011).

A more formal definition of restorative justice is a theory of justice that emphasizes repairing the harm caused by criminal behavior. It is best accomplished through cooperative processes that allow all willing stakeholders to meet, although other approaches are available when that is impossible. This can lead to the transformation of people, relationships and communities.

The foundational principles of restorative justice have been summarized as follows: 1) crime causes harm and justice should focus on repairing that harm, 2) the people most affected by the crime should be able to participate in its resolution, 3) the responsibility of the government is to maintain order and of the community to build peace (Gubatan, 2011).

In Cordillera, the implementation of *Oplan Lambat-Sibat* as the mother of all crime prevention efforts includes maintaining an updating the crime map as the basis in crime analysis and identification of focus areas (crime hotspots, critical times of crime commission and modus operandi of criminals). The identified focus areas shall be the subject of aggressive police visibility/presence (foot and mobile patrols), checkpoint/chokepoint operations, *Oplan Bakal Sita* and other related anti-criminality and security operations.



Detailed Patrol Plans on all anti-criminality, police patrol and security operations – high police visibility (foot and mobile patrol), checkpoint/chokepoint operations, *Oplan Bakal Sita* and other police operations/ interventions shall be guided by the following essential information/ requirements (such as the 5W's & 1H). Police security operations shall be conducted in focus areas based on the GIS Crime Map and the area intelligence estimate. The time for the conduct of police operations shall be based on the crime pattern analysis, crime clock and intelligence estimate of the area. Police patrol and visibility (foot and mobile) shall be regularly dispatched at the beat areas subject to supervision and inspection by the designated area officer.

All police operations shall be conducted per existing policies, standards and procedures; in any operation, careful planning is a must to avoid waste of time, effort and resources. A patrol plan should be made with area coverage: haven, ambush areas and crime-prone areas, organizational detail of personnel, duration, stand-by points; and route plan.

Some assignments allocations include the following: personnel on patrol shall establish and generate community involvement/participation and must be knowledgeable on the revised PNP Operational Procedures; Deployment of motorcycle – mounted police with two (2) personnel riding in tandem at identified focus areas; deployment of SWAT and Mobile Patrol Unit (MPU) elements for police visibility and patrol operations; Judicial Approach – Police Stations shall identify nightspot areas and conduct police initiated operations at least once a week based on the crime clock.

Conduct of Foot/Mobile/Motorcycle Patrols/*Oplan Bakal Sita* –Police Stations, CPSC-SWAT and MPU shall conduct foot, mobile and motorcycle patrols in the identified focus areas. Likewise, in all places of convergence such as malls, terminal/bus/Public Utility Jeepney stations, vital installations and economic key points. This endeavor shall be based on the present crime clock to effectively implement it.

The case of Stefene Galidan, a sophomore business administration student of Mt. Province State Polytechnic College, died in November 5 while being treated at a hospital shortly after



he was arrested by Bontoc policemen, according to a statement from Mt. *Relative to the study on crime prevention, the incident described herein can be prevented through the active community support to the programs of the PNP and other law enforcement agencies.*

Since 2001, households of the capital town of Bontoc have been accustomed to calling in a neighbour hood watch composed of the community's housewives, who patrol the streets with the blessing of the municipal government. The Bontoc Women's Brigade was reorganized and expanded to cover three more crime-burdened towns. Because the women volunteer as peacekeepers, a non-government organization has linked up with government agencies to provide their families with jobs and business opportunities as compensation. The women of Mountain Province have been advocates of sobriety in a region that had served as a peace zone amid encounters between military troops and communist rebels in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR). Despite this strategy, there is still the proliferation of heinous crimes in Bontoc Mountain Province due to lack of resources between police and civilians.

In the year 2011, the 54<sup>th</sup> Infantry Batallion (54<sup>th</sup> IB) was able to organize a sports fest through a peace rally among youth of Bontoc Mountain Province. The primary purpose of this activity was to raise awareness of people. This was supported by different companies. On the first day of the sports fest, while the 54<sup>th</sup> IB was proceeding to Bontoc to facilitate the planned series of activities, they were ambushed by allegedly members of the New People's Army (NPA) within Barangay Samoki, Bontoc, Mountain Province resulting to the killing of 9 soldiers. This incident resulted in the cancellation of the activity. This was one of the indications wherein crime prevention was not working that year. This is a very crucial part of law enforcement functions that require intensive intelligence effort and that is very close to crime prevention efforts.

According to one of the residents of Bontoc Ili Barangay, another case that happened in Bontoc, Mountain Province was a stabbing incident done by an "Ilocano" in Barangay Poblacion. This was dealt with the indigenous way of coming up with a penalty that was accepted by both parties.



## **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

This study aimed to assess the crime prevention program of Bontoc, Mountain Province as implemented by the police, public officials and other volunteer groups. Specifically, the study sought to address the following problems:

1. What are the indigenous crime prevention practices in Bontoc, Mountain Province?
2. What is the assessment of the respondents on the implementation of the crime prevention program of Bontoc, Mountain Province in terms of the following elements of a crime:
  - 2.1 Motive;
  - 2.2 Opportunity; and
  - 2.3 Instrumentality
    - 2.1.1 Is there a significant difference in the assessment of the respondents on the implementation of the crime prevention program of Bontoc, Mountain Province according to the group?
3. What is the extent of participation of the residents in the enforcement of the crime prevention programs in Bontoc, Mountain Province?
4. Is there a significant difference in the extent of participation of the residents in the enforcement of the crime prevention programs in Bontoc, Mountain Province?
5. What action plan can be developed to address the findings of the study?

## **HYPOTHESIS**

This study is guided by the lone hypothesis:

There is no significant difference in the participation of the residents in the enforcement of the crime prevention programs in Bontoc, Mountain Province?



## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### RESEARCH DESIGN

This study made use of descriptive-survey method. The descriptive-survey method was appropriate to gather information about the variables in the study. Descriptive research is usually used to obtain information concerning the current status of the phenomena to describe what exists concerning variables or conditions in a situation. The method involves range from the survey which describes the status quo, the correlation study which investigates the relationship between variables, to developmental studies that seek to determine changes over time (Key, 1997).

### POPULATION AND LOCALE OF THE STUDY

The population of the study was composed of police officers assigned in Bontoc Municipal Police Station, elected Public officials, and residents of Bontoc.

**Table 1**

**Population of the Study**

Group	Sample size (n)	Total population (N)
Police Officers	44	44
Elected public officials	30	100
Residents	282	6,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>6,144</b>

The police who were involved in the study were those assigned in Bontoc Municipal Police Station regardless of their length of stay. The police know the implementation of the indigenous means of crime prevention since almost all of them are from the said municipality.

The elected public officials include those barangay, municipal, and provincial officers who were currently serving their political term as officials when this study was conducted. These



officials participated in the prosecution of accused persons using indigenous crime prevention programs. The residents included those who stayed in Bontoc for a minimum of 5 years to ensure enough experience on how crime prevention is implemented or carried out. The sampling method used for the residents was convenient purposive sampling. The respondents described above-answered problem no. 2 and 3.

Those who were interviewed by the researchers were those who are knowledgeable on the indigenous means of preventing the commission of crimes in Bontoc, Mountain Province. Some of them are “*amam-a*” or elders. These respondents were selected since they are the ones directing and/or facilitating the *tungtungan* or dialogue to come up with a decision accepted by both parties. These eight (8) answered problem no. 1.

As used in this study, Bontoc is delimited to the centralized barangays that include Poblacion, Bontoc Ili, Samuki, and Caluttit. Bontoc is a second class municipality and the capital of Mountain Province. Bontoc is the historical capital of the entire Cordillera region since the inception of governance in the Cordillera. According to the 2010 census, it has a population of 23,980 people. The municipality celebrates the annual *Lang-ay Festival*. Bontoc is home to the Bontoc Tribe, a feared war-like group of indigenous people who actively indulged in tribal wars with its neighbors up until the 1930s. Every Bontoc male had to undergo a rite of passage into manhood, which may include headhunting, where the male has to journey (Sometimes with companions) and hunt for a human head.

## DATA GATHERING TOOLS

**Questionnaire.** The 4-point Likert’s type questionnaire-checklist was used to gather data to answer the problems of the study and documentary analysis to examine records and documents of cases reported at Bontoc Municipal Police Station. Likert’s scale is a method of ascribing quantitative value to qualitative data, to make it amenable to statistical analysis. A numerical value is assigned to each potential choice and a mean figure for all the responses is computed at the end of the evaluation or survey. It is used mainly in training course evaluations and market surveys. Likert scales usually have five potential choices



(strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, strongly disagree) but sometimes go up to ten or more. The final average score represents the overall level of accomplishment or attitude toward the subject matter (Littell, 2010). Informal interviews with some of the personnel of the Bontoc Municipal Police Station during the data gathering was used as supplementary instrument to acquire more accurate and sufficient data for analysis.

### **TREATMENT OF DATA**

To determine the reliability of the questionnaire, the Kuder-Richardson 21 Formula was used. The 4-point Likert Scale was used to treat the gathered data on implementation and participation. The statistical responses that were used include frequency counts and weighted mean. To arrive at every mean, weighted mean, Analysis of Variance, ratio and proportion were used to arrive at a statistical result. This is appropriate when there is an imbalance number of respondents per group. Since there were three (3) groups of respondents that were involved in the study, the F-test on the non-significant difference was used using 0.5% level of significance.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **The Indigenous Crime Prevention Practices in Bontoc, Mountain Province**

There were eight (8) respondents the researchers asked to respond to this problem. All of them are residents of Bontoc for at least five (5) years and are knowledgeable in the different indigenous practices in crime prevention. The following are the indigenous practices of Bontoc Mountain Province in the goal of preventing the commission of crimes.

The indigenous crime prevention practices in the Municipality of Bontoc in Mountain Province similarly include the practice of restorative justice where both parties need to cooperate and talk together to come up with an agreement in which both parties are willing to provide or perform. The indigenous practices provide advantages such as fewer expenses to both parties, provide solution to the case in a short duration of time, as well as provide swift forms of penalties, when applicable.



## Pechen

This is a “peace pact” between tribal members or villagers from different barangays to preserve peace and order among themselves. This is done by series of meetings to agree that tribes in a barangay and other places within Bontoc should not be or avoid conflicting with one another.

Here, if the violator is arrested by the police, the penalty would depend on the agreement of the elders or from the mouth of the victim. The penalty would also depend on the gravity of the offense committed. There is no imprisonment but usually on community service such as called in vernacular as “*multa*,” that refers to fine as a form of penalty.

Some incidents where “*pechen*” was applied as cited by the respondents include 1) a stabbing to death incident involving a teenager victim from Bontoc whereby the suspect was a man from Basao, Kalinga, 2) a police officer who shot two persons from Kalinga was subjected to “*pechen*,” though the case is still undergoing legal disposition and arrangement using “*pechen*,” 3) a police who slapped his wife was ordered by the elders not to enter the municipality for 2 years. These are cases that prove “*pechen*” is being practiced regardless of the work, status, and place of the offender or victim.

The implementation of *pechen* is considered a pro-active means of preventing the commission of crimes. This is because rules and penalties are set beforehand. Warnings are given to participating tribes. In this, both tribes especially those who agreed should abide by the *pechen*.

In the observation of the researchers, this is one of the reasons why many don't want really to commit a crime in the locality. This is also the reason why nearby barangays are peaceful with other barangays. This is a medium for the residents and villagers to do business as one and to freely move as members of the community. According to Hon. Ericson Bocyong, *punong barangay* of Poblacion in Bontoc, “*pechen*” is the best means of solving crimes for it



will bring back order in the community especially to the families involved (Personal Communication, March 10, 2016).

### **Ator System**

This is applied to settle disputes among residents or even outsiders so long as the victim is from the municipality. The ones to decide on the matter on what will be the penalty to be given will be the group of elders.

This indigenous means of settling disputes is usually applied for civil cases and disputes without resorting to filing formal cases in courts. "*Multa*" or fines are usually given as penalty and the amount will depend on the gravity of the offense committed. The respondents claim that this means of preventing crime is effective since it would give a lesson to the person or its tribemates not to commit another. If there will be a case of recidivism, a higher penalty may be decided by the elders to include *distierro* that would mean, the guilty person will not be allowed to enter the place for a certain period of years.

Originally, the word "*ator*" is for a young man while the word "*dap-ay*" is for young women. This was practiced before whereby male and females were associated with them to know each other for purposes of protection and strong socialization.

### **Maipaila System**

This would mean "to show as a form of deterrence" to others. This is done by showing the public the penalty of a guilty person. The penalty usually includes money, hard labor and others found by the elders as appropriate. In some barangays, they have the "educative committee" that is in charge of the "*fagfaga*" to reform the person who committed wrongful acts towards another. It serves as a warning for a graver penalty.

If a person found to be guilty of an act, he/she can be required to do hard labor like "*lugam*" or to clean a certain part favorable to the victim or his/her family. The guilty person may



also be required to do “tuping” or landscaping or riprapping. All these will be seen by the residents and would be implanted into their minds that doing such is punishable though those being observed.

According to a Punong Barangay in Bontoc, this measure is very effective for it will first be understood by the suspect before it will be implemented to him/her. But if the elders found out that it is not fitted then they would remedy for alternatives.

### **Fagfaga System**

This is the means of the elders or officials to educate or give advice to the youth or new residents in the barangay of community on the indigenous practices so that regulations or the indigenous practices of preventing the commission of crimes will be observed without complaints. This is done to avoid being a habitual offender.

According to one of the eight (8) respondents, it is the responsibility of the residents and new residents of the barangay to know the prevailing practices in their community. Having said this, the researchers are also responsible to inform them. This is to maintain good relations between and among the residents in one place. This may be done by request. It can also be done informally during *pulong-pulong* or meeting among concerned and interested individuals.

On the other hand, it is not a guarantee that one is not informed of the indigenous practices in a barangay it doesn't mean that he/she will not be punished for a wrongdoing. This happened in a case shared by one of the respondents saying "A new couple after their wedding celebration decided to stay for good in one barangay within Bontoc. In one day, the husband injured a minor by stabbing him who was under the influenced of liquor after a heated argument." Even though the suspect was not given the indigenous practices about the possible penalties, he was still penalized to pay a fine for the victim's family and a certain amount of money for the barangay.



All of the foregoing practices have a similar purpose, and that is to prevent the commission of crime due to possible penalties. Penalty would always depend on the gravity of the offense or on how the offense was committed. The administration of justice is usually in a form of restorative by satisfying the victim or the victim's family if the suspect is already dead.

Relative to the findings above, there is a memorandum of agreement (MOA) between and among Barangays Samoki, Bontoc Ili, Poblacion, and Caluttit which are within the municipality of Bontoc, Mountain Province. These barangays mentioned is called centralized barangays. This MOA obliges the different Punong Barangays to represent their respective barangays during mediation, meeting or *pulong-pulong*.

As provided in the MOA, the four barangays agreed to forge the agreement in the premise to preserve and maintain peace and order situation in their area and to maintain the peaceful co-existence with other communities, in keeping with the prevailing native customs and traditions.

Based on the content of the MOA, if death occurs, the guilty party shall pay 160,000 pesos. Out of this amount, 120,000 pesos shall be paid directly to the family of the victim and the remaining amount of 40,000 pesos shall accrue in the centralized barangays. In case of physical injury, the guilty party shall pay 130,000 pesos. The amount of 90,000 pesos shall be directly paid to the aggrieved party, and the amount of 40,000 pesos shall be paid to the centralized barangays. With this MOA, the amount as a form of *multa* or penalty may still change depending on the capability of the accused to pay. In case, the guilty party is not capable of paying the amount, hard labor may be practiced. If the guilty party can't afford to pay and can't work as a form of penalty, the penalty shall be decided by the elders and barangay officials.

Despite these practices, filing of legal actions in the police station or court is not being barred to some cases where the offended party opted to file a case. In such a manner, the



elders may still convene to make their stand and give possible penalties. This is to give immediate disciplinary measures to the guilty party.

According to a police officer in Bontoc, this is as good as counseling the suspect of the wrongdoing. This is done purposely for crime prevention and to avoid repeating the crime committed or committing another crime.

Part of practicing indigenous crime prevention practices is restorative justice where crime causes harm and justice should focus on repairing that harm. The people most affected by the crime should be able to participate in its resolution, and the responsibility of the government is to maintain order and of the community to build peace (Gubatan, 2011). Restorative is at the forefront to maintain tranquility.

After all the proceeding is finished including the penalization whereby “*fagfaga*” follows. This time, the elders will tell their respective pieces for the accused not to be repeat offender and to warn him/her not to do revenge.

The indigenous crime prevention practices are effective in the maintenance of peace and order. Many of the residents and visitors recognize the indigenous practices as a great factor in preventing the commission of crimes in the municipality.

**Table 2**

**Assessment on the Implementation of Crime Prevention Programs in Bontoc, Mountain Province in terms of motive, opportunity, and instrumentality**

**(N=356)**

Indicators	WM	VI
<b>A. Motive</b>		
1. Dialogue with barangay officials are regularly conducted.	2.61	Much Implemented
2. Coordination with force multipliers is conducted.	2.56	Much Implemented



3. <i>Oplan tambuli</i> is conducted where people are informed of the crime prevention tips with the use of a megaphone.	2.43	Implemented
4. Flyers on crime prevention tips are distributed to residence.	2.27	Implemented
5. Slogans and tarpaulin on crime prevention are posted.	2.53	Much Implemented
6. The BPATs are involved in crime prevention.	2.55	Much Implemented
7. Laws and ordinances are strictly implemented.	2.56	Much Implemented
<b>Sub-Area Mean</b>	<b>2.50</b>	<b>Implemented</b>

**B. Opportunity**

1. Foot patrolling is conducted by police and other deputized persons.	2.81	Much Implemented
2. Mobile patrolling is conducted within the central part of Bontoc.	2.89	Much Implemented
3. CCTVs are effectively monitored by police personnel and/or other private persons.	2.41	Implemented
4. Seminars on crime prevention tips are conducted in schools regularly.	2.67	Much Implemented
5. <i>Oplan Sambayan</i> is implemented to generate community support and active partnership with police programs.	2.48	Implemented
6. <i>Oplan Santining</i> is implemented wherein the efforts of Bontoc Police is being informed to the community.	2.52	Much Implemented
7. LOI 22/09 Bayanihan is conducted where other sectors like Women's brigade, organizations, etc. of the community are utilized to help the police.	2.84	Much Implemented
<b>Sub-Area Mean</b>	<b>2.66</b>	<b>Much Implemented</b>



<b>C. Instrumentality</b>		
1. Checkpoint and/or chokepoint are conducted.		Much
	2.63	Implemented
2. <i>Oplan Bakal Sita</i> is being conducted where checkpoint/chokepoint is being held in a strategic place.	2.41	Implemented
3. <i>Operation Kap-Kap</i> in bars/night club is conducted regularly.	2.06	Implemented
4. The possession and/or use of any deadly weapon is strictly monitored.	2.35	Implemented
5. The unauthorized use of camouflage and police uniform is prohibited.	2.10	Implemented
6. Motor vehicles without plate are not allowed inside the municipality of Bontoc.	2.26	Implemented
7. Curfew hour is strictly implemented in Bontoc.		Much
	2.68	Implemented
Sub-Area Mean	2.36	Implemented
<b>Over-All Mean</b>	<b>2.51</b>	<b>Much Implemented</b>

Table 2 presents the assessment on the implementation of the crime prevention programs in Bontoc, Mountain Province. The presentation is done per element of crime.

The assessment of the respondents on the implementation of the crime prevention program of Bontoc, Mountain Province in terms of motive, opportunity, and instrumentality was perceived by the respondents to be much implemented as shown by the computed overall mean of 2.51. This implies that the activities directed towards the elimination of the commission of crimes in Bontoc, Mountain Province specially focused on the elements of crimes are being carried out but not to the fullest extent.

As mentioned by one of the residents of Bontoc during an informal interview, “*police are the ones conducting patrol with the help of some barangay officials and women’s brigade.*” The



women's brigade being mentioned by the informant is a group of women who are tasked to prevent crimes in the central part of Bontoc.

In another informal interview to a police officer, he stated "we normally do crime prevention efforts by random patrol using our police car." He added "we always coordinate with the barangay officials especially during fiesta and significant events like wedding, festivals and others for purposes of smooth implementation of crime prevention efforts."

From the standpoint of the public officials, a Punong Barangay claimed that "we help the police in conducting patrol especially when requested. We also conduct our patrol which is specifically conducted by own barangay tanod members."

The foregoing results confirm the triangle of crime where the presence of the elements would establish a crime. Intent is an element of crime and is 'the exercise of intelligent will, the mind being fully aware of the nature and consequences of the act which is about to be done, and with such knowledge, and with full liberty of action, willing and electing to do it. Motive refers to the reason or causes why a person or group of persons will perpetuate a crime.

Opportunity refers to the time or chance given to the perpetrator in committing the crime. On the other hand, instrumentality is the means or implement used in the commission of the crime.

However, the crimes can be prevented using the theory and psychology of police omnipresence. The concept of this theory explains that if police or other law enforcement officers are present in a certain place and time, it's a factor that would eliminate the desire in committing a crime. If the police are always in that certain place or area, then the people will be aware 24/7.

In Barangay Caluttit, several incidents already happened, to include the stabbing of a police officer who in turn shot two natives of Kalinga who found out to be boarders of the said



barangay. The other incident was the stabbing to death of a 9-year old elementary pupil by another native of Kalinga. These are some incidents where the Punong Barangay of Caluttit was motivated to facilitate a dialogue/meeting with boarding service provider not to accept boarders in the barangay Caluttit if the person/s is from Kalinga. This is a new measure that started in March 2016 to give solution to the various incidents that happened involving people from Kalinga.

The next discussions are based on the three variables of the study which include motive, opportunity, and instrumentality.

### **Motive**

As gleaned from table 2, the respondents perceived that crime prevention programs of Bontoc, Mountain Province as to motive related activities are much implemented as shown in the area mean of 2.50. This means that the efforts of the police, barangay officials and concerned citizens are not enough as perceived by the respondents. This implies that the community residents, in general, are not satisfied with the way the authorities prevent the commission of crimes especially those activities focused on eliminating motive as one of the elements of a crime.

The *fagfaga* system may eliminate the motive of the accused in committing further crime/s. In this indigenous way, the elders will advise the accused not to do anything that would be considered as revenge for it may worsen the situation. In this case, the accused is warned not to commit any other crime. The purpose of this indigenous practice is to let the accused accept the penalty and must suffer the consequence of his/her act.

Similarly, the *ator* system would enable young male residents to be educated by the elders and or other older residents through their advice. This would serve as a training ground of the new generation to learn the other indigenous practices that are very beneficial to the residents of Bontoc.



The regular conduct of dialogue with barangay officials obtained the highest mean of 2.61, interpreted as much implemented. This means that to prevent the commission of crimes, sectors must work together to have a common goal and to work for one objective or goal in eliminating crime. This suggests further that barangay officials always get involved in crime prevention because they are knowledgeable in their respective areas of responsibilities such as the residents and their general characteristics.

The indicator on the use of flyers on crime prevention tips that are distributed to residents was given a mean of 2.27, interpreted as implemented. This implies that in Bontoc, posters or other information materials are needed in informing the residents as to how they could fight criminality. This may mean that residents don't observe posters or flyers as a means of preventing commissions of crimes. It could be also that the flyers, if any, were distributed to the residents who were not part of this study.

As observed by the researchers, there were no posters on crime prevention tips that were visible in central part of Bontoc. This could be the reason that the respondents perceived it as the lowest as to its implementation for it was not being carried out.

According to one of the police informants, the use of posters and slogans on crime prevention is not used much in Bontoc. What they conduct is a constant coordination with the barangay officials and elders to know and to give updates on matters affecting peace and order.

### **Opportunity**

The respondents provided a sub-area mean of 2.66, interpreted as much implemented. This means that the activities and programs of the authorities in Bontoc to eliminate opportunities were perceived to be insufficient as to its implementation. This is also analyzed that since there is a lack of support from the community on the programs initiated by the government through the police and elected government officials, the implementers are not aggressive in implementing fully.



According to the Punong Barangay of Bontoc Ili, the culture and tradition in their barangay are paramount to be observed. The researchers noticed that the Punong Barangay puts supremacy of the indigenous crime prevention measures than other laws concerning crimes.

Similarly, in the lecture of Desire Estrada on Aeta Criminal Justice System, she stressed that the Aeta Justice System doesn't recognize the law; their "common law" must prevail and that the police must follow their decision through their *Datu*.

Considering the *ator* system, since male are separated from females, there would be no opportunity for them to commit sexually-related crimes. In the practice of *pechen*, if a person planning to commit a crime recognize that the would-be-victim is "napednan" or member of the tribes involved in the peace pact, he/she will not continue the crime. If the suspect deliberately committed the crime despite knowing that the person to be victimized is a member of the other tribe under *pechen*, he/she may be given a greater penalty than the usual.

The highest-rated was on the programs on mobile patrolling which was perceived by the respondents as much implemented with a mean of 2.89.

The monitoring of the CCTVs by police officers and public officials and other private persons was perceived by the respondents with a mean of 2.41, interpreted as much implemented.

As observed by the researchers, the use of CCTV was not the initiative of the LGU but it was the private establishment themselves. According to a businessman who installed CCTV in his establishment, CCTV is very important to at least record happenings that can be used to investigate a crime that may lead to the identity of suspects. Faroden (2015) in her study on the CCTV system of Baguio City, stated that CCTV recordings are very important in solving crimes, monitoring traffic situations, and disasters. It can also be a deterrent to persons who are planning to commit a crime if they know that CCTVs are installed in the area. According



to the Punong Barangay of Barangay Caluttit, if CCTV is installed it will surely eliminate opportunity as well as the motive of would-be offenders to commit crimes.

### **Instrumentality**

In the area of instrumentality, the respondents perceived that the crime prevention programs are much implemented as evidenced by its sub-area mean of 2.36. This is an indication that activities of police and public officials on crime prevention to eliminate possible tools and equipment that may be used in the commission of the crime is minimal as shown by the overall response of the participants.

However, concerning indigenous practices, tribe members who are with *pechen* with other people may confine their conflicts among themselves because they are members of the. This may happen as a form of respect to relatives and the tradition, thus, eliminating the use of materials or items.

Relatively, the *pechen* and *fagfaga* may be used to bar the use of any instrument in committing the crime after both parties are given advice not to commit further crime against each other or any other persons or member of their respective tribes.

The indicator that obtained the highest mean of 2.68, which was interpreted as much implemented was on the implementation of curfew hour in the Poblacion of Bontoc. This implies that the relationship of sectors of community, police and public officials was good and in which activities were well coordinated. This result may be attributed to the conduct of patrolling done by the women's brigade and not the police.

Special attention on the "*Kap-kap operation*" in clubs/bars and the unauthorized use of camouflage and police uniform should be reinforced because they are much implemented as evidenced by the computed mean of 2.06. This shows that this means of crime prevention as a practice is not much being observed by police and barangay officials in Bontoc. This would also imply that police officers are focused on other means of crime



prevention such as on the strict implementation of curfew, "Oplan bakal sita" on firearms, deadly weapons and pro-active information on the non-wearing of unauthorized uniforms of in-service personnel in the police and military.

According to a retired police officer who is a resident of Bontoc Ili, if a suspect is armed with a deadly weapon, the more that he/she dares to commit an offense and to fight against authorities. He added that "most firearms recovered during checkpoint through *oplan bakal sita* were unlicensed. This was during their time in the early quarters of 2010. Other weapons recovered included kitchen knife, double-bladed knife, customized bolo, etc.

**Table 3**

**Assessment on the Implementation of Crime Prevention Programs in Bontoc, Mountain Province According to Group (N=356)**

Indicators	PNP (44)	PO (30)	RES (282)
<b>A. Motive</b>			
1. Dialogue with barangay officials are regularly conducted.	3.61 (VMI)	2.80 (MI)	2.43 (I)
2. Coordination with force multipliers is conducted.	3.55 (VMI)	2.77 (MI)	2.38 (I)
3. <i>Oplan tambuli</i> is conducted where people are informed of the crime prevention tips with the use of a megaphone.	3.23 (MI)	2.20 (I)	2.33 (I)
4. Flyers on crime prevention tips are distributed to residence.	3.41 (VMI)	2.07 (I)	2.11 (I)
5. Slogans and tarpaulin on crime prevention are posted.	3.52 (VMI)	2.30 (I)	2.40 (I)
6. The BPATs are involved in crime prevention.	3.45 (VMI)	2.58 (MI)	2.41 (I)
7. Laws and ordinances are strictly implemented.	3.50 (VMI)	2.50 (I)	2.42 (I)
Sub-Area Mean	3.47 (VMI)	2.46 (I)	2.36 (I)
<b>B. OPPORTUNITY</b>			
1. Foot patrolling is conducted by police and other deputized	3.68	2.87	2.66



persons.	(VMI)	(MI)	(MI)
	3.61	3.00	2.77
2. Mobile patrolling is conducted within the central part of Bontoc.	(VMI)	(MI)	(MI)
3. CCTVs are effectively monitored by police personnel and/or other private persons.	3.02	2.37	2.32
	(MI)	(I)	(I)
4. Seminars on crime prevention tips are conducted in schools regularly.	3.11	2.63	2.61
	(MI)	(MI)	(MI)
5. <i>Oplan Sambayan</i> is implemented to generate community support and active partnership with police programs.	3.18	2.30	2.39
	(MI)	(I)	(I)
6. <i>Oplan Santining</i> is implemented wherein the efforts of Bontoc Police is being informed to the community.	3.30	2.10	2.44
	(VMI)	(I)	(I)
7. LOI 22/09 <i>Bayanihan</i> is conducted where other sectors like Women's brigade, organizations, etc. of the community are utilized to help the police.	3.25	2.97	2.76
	(MI)	(MI)	(MI)
Sub-Area Mean	3.31	2.60	2.56
	(VMI)	(MI)	(MI)
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>PNP</b>	<b>PO</b>	<b>RES</b>
	<b>(44)</b>	<b>(30)</b>	<b>(282)</b>
<b>C. Instrumentality</b>			
1. Checkpoint and/or chokepoint are conducted.	3.48	2.63	2.49
	(VMI)	(MI)	(I)
2. <i>Oplan Bakal Sita</i> is being conducted where checkpoint/chokepoint is being held in a strategic place.	3.16	2.20	2.31
	(MI)	(I)	(I)
3. <i>Operation "Kap-Kap"</i> in bars/night club is conducted regularly.	2.80	1.87	1.97
	(MI)	(I)	(I)
4. The possession and/or use of any deadly weapon is strictly monitored.	3.14	2.07	2.26
	(MI)	(I)	(I)
5. The unauthorized use of camouflage and police uniform is prohibited.	2.70	1.90	2.03
	(MI)	(I)	(I)
6. Motor vehicles without plate are not allowed inside the municipality of Bontoc.	2.91	2.07	2.18
	(MI)	(I)	(I)
7. Curfew hour is strictly implemented in Bontoc.	3.48	2.43	2.58
	(VMI)	(I)	(MI)
Sub-Area Mean	3.09	2.17	2.26
	(MI)	(I)	(I)
<b>Over-All Mean</b>	<b>3.29</b>	<b>2.41</b>	<b>2.39</b>
	<b>(VMI)</b>	<b>(I)</b>	<b>(I)</b>



Table 3 presents the assessment on the implementation of the crime prevention programs in Bontoc, Mountain Province according to the group.

The overall mean provided by the PNP personnel of Bontoc Municipal Police Station is 3.29, interpreted as very much implemented. The public officials and residents responded with a mean of 2.41 and 2.39 respectively, interpreted as implemented.

Under the three (3) variables which are the elements of crime that includes motive, opportunity, and instrumentality, there is a consistency of the result where the responses of the public officials and residents were found to be similar on all the variables, while the response of the police respondents group was found to be with higher means compared to the other two groups of respondents.

This implies that since the police are the implementers of most crime prevention programs, they perceived it as being implemented by themselves but as the program was implemented towards the recipients, they perceive it differently.

As claimed by one resident in an informal interview, "some police are not doing their job well; they only stay in the police station and they are not much visible in town."

In response, one police officer of Bontoc MPS stated that "we are few in the station and not all will do patrolling. Some have designations to do the administrative tasks to accomplish some mandates of higher commands. This is the reason, we are not visible in our area of responsibility."

The crime prevention and the principles of community policing are very important to be born in mind that includes the nine principles of community policing. These are the prevention of crime is the basic mission of the police; police must be respected by the community; a citizen's respect for the law develops his respect for the police; Cooperation of the public decreases as the use of force increases; the police must render impartial enforcement of the law; physical force is used only as a last resort; The police are the public



and the public are the police; Police represents the law; and the absence of crime and disorder is the test of police efficiency.

Based on the general findings above, the psychology of omnipresence or popularly known today as "police presence " states that while it is true that the police officers cannot detect the thinking or desire of the criminal, yet, he can destroy the opportunity to commit a crime by his ever-presence patrol strategy.

Relative to the findings above, the so-called high visibility patrol is used as a strategy in crime prevention. The general tendency in crime prevention strategy is high police visibility to ensure citizen feelings of security for the law-abiding but the creation of fear for would-be violators. The theory underlying the high visibility patrol concept is that certain types of crimes can be reduced by increasing the aura of police omnipresence in the community. On the other hand, the low visibility patrol has been designed to increase police activities of arrest of criminals who have already committed or are in the act of committing selected types of crimes. Low-visibility patrol is a strategy wherein members of the force in plainclothes patrol areas on foot or in unmarked automobiles where street crimes become high-risk crimes.

Similarly, part of the earlier discussion of this paper is the presentation of the indigenous crime prevention measures in Bontoc. One of which is *pechen* which is a form of crime prevention in the place. It serves as such because people know the possible penalty imposable when they commit a crime.

This is explained in the Deterrence Theory that tells that if penalty is implemented squarely and immediately without bias, it helps reduce the commission of a crime in a community. If there is the swift application of the penalty that is rightful and just, it would create fear for would-be criminals in committing similar acts.

Thus, in crime prevention by the implementers and recipients of the program, the principles of community policing are very important to be noted and be part of the crime prevention



implementation such as the prevention of crime is the basic mission of the police; police must be respected by the community, a citizen's respect for the law develops his respect for the police, cooperation of the public decreases as the use of force increases; the police must render impartial enforcement of the law, physical force is used only as a last resort and many others.

### **Motive**

The indicators numbered from three to seven provided similar responses between public officials and residents, though with different means. This means that the two groups of respondents have known and observed similar situations and have a similarity of experience.

The PNP personnel perceived the activities on crime prevention program to eliminate the motive to be very much implemented with the computed mean of 3.47. The public officials who include the provincial, municipal and barangay elected and appointed public servants provided a sub-area mean of 2.46, interpreted as much implemented while the residents provided this section a sub-area mean of 2.36, interpreted as much implemented. As gleaned from the table, the responses of public officials and residents of Bontoc had different means but arrived at the same verbal interpretation as compared to the mean and interpretation shown by the responses of the police respondents.

One of the personnel of the police community relation section of Bontoc MPS explained some of their activities on crime prevention. She stated that they regularly conduct short lectures on crime prevention in the elementary, high schools and college. They also conduct a dialogue with barangay officials and volunteer citizens in some barangays.

The Psychology of Omnipresence is now known as "police presence." This states that while it is true that the police officers cannot detect the thinking or desire of the criminal yet they can destroy the opportunity to commit a crime by his ever-presence patrol strategy. The psychology of omnipresence, as an initial police strategy, is to establish the aura of police



presence in the community, and is best exemplified and effectively applied in patrol's crime prevention activities by uniformed foot patrol officers as well as mobile patrol crew inconspicuously marked radio-equipped, patrol cars. This theoretical concept is being performed by the Bontoc MPS despite their number which was perceived to be insufficient.

Relative to the findings, an Instructor of MPSPC was accidentally hit on the face by a discus throw after his student accidentally threw the object with no intention. Considering changes in indigenous practices, the original practice of *pechen* or any other indigenous means as not used. It was solved through *tut-uya* between and among the relatives and barangay officials for the side of the suspect to aid the hospitalization of the victim.

The *law of Inayan or Lawa* was used in an incident where groups of students had a fight that resulted in injuries. One of the victims said that they must retaliate considering that blood was seen on them but relatives and parents made use of the *law of inayan or Lawa* by saying that it's not worth doing to heal the injury.

### **Opportunity**

Among the three groups of respondents, the public officials and residents provided a similar interpretation of their perception after evaluating the opportunity indicators, to be much implemented.

Also, as gleaned from the table, almost all mean interpretations between the public official and resident groups had a similar interpretation as compared to the mean interpretations of the police respondents. For example, indicator numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 or all the indicators obtained similar interpretations. This is an indication that the two groups of respondents experience almost the same regarding the crime prevention programs in Bontoc, Mountain Province.

The police respondents provided a sub-area mean of 3.31 (very much implemented), the public officials evaluated the indicator of opportunity with a mean of 2.60 (much implemented), and the residents gave a mean of 2.56 (much implemented).



Relative to the findings above, crime opportunity theory is a theory suggesting that offenders make rational choices and thus choose targets that offer a high reward with little effort and risk. The occurrence of a crime depends on two things: the presence of at least one motivated offender who is ready or willing to engage in a crime, and the conditions of the environment in which that offender is situated, to wit, opportunities for crime. All crimes require opportunity but not every opportunity is followed by a crime. Similarly, a motivated offender is necessary for the commission of a crime but not sufficient (Felson, 2006). According to the Punong Barangay of Bontoc Ili, they conduct proactive measures by joining the police during their *kap-kap operations*.

### **Instrumentality**

Out of seven indicators of instrumentality, the responses of the public officials and residents are similar, except for indicator number one, though with different means. There is no similarity of mean interpretation between police versus the other two groups of respondents.

The PNP personnel of Bontoc Municipal Police Station were respondents provided a sub-area mean of 3.09, interpreted as much implemented, the public officials gave a mean of 2.17, interpreted as implemented, and the residents perceived the instrumentality indicators with a mean of 2.26, interpreted as implemented. This implies that in the conduct of activities geared towards preventing commission of crimes, it's the police who claimed that every effort was implemented but refuted by the other two groups of respondents-the public officials and residents.

The concept of high visibility patrol as a strategy in crime prevention ensures citizen feelings of security for the law-abiding but the creation of fear for would-be violators. The theory underlying the high visibility patrol concept is that certain types of crimes can be reduced by increasing the aura of police omnipresence in the community. On the other hand, low



visibility patrol had been designed to increase police activities of the arrest of criminals who committed or are in the act of committing selected types of crimes.

**Table 4**

**Summary of ANOVA on the Assessment of the Implementation of Crime Prevention Programs in Bontoc, Mountain Province according to Group**

Source of Variation	Mean Sum of Squares	Estimated df	Variance	F-ratio
Between	67.081	2	0.789	
Within	67.296	6	0.036	21.917
F.05 = 5.14		Decision: Reject Ho		

Table 4 below presents the result of the test of significant difference using ANOVA on the implementation of the crime prevention program in Bontoc, Mountain Province. In the F-test, shown in the table, the computed F-ratio of 21.917 is higher than the tabled F-ratio of 5.14 at 5 percent significance level, thus, the null hypothesis is rejected. This means that there were significant differences in the perceived extent of implementation of the crime prevention programs considering the group. This was very evident in the perceived level of the PNP personnel as primary implementers of crime prevention programs and the public officials and the residents of the community.

While the police respondents claimed to say that they are very implemented much the crime prevention program, the public officials and residents did not readily feel and accept it. This implies that the residents and public officials were not satisfied with the effort done by the police to eliminate the commission of crimes in Bontoc, Mountain Province.

As mentioned by the Chief Investigator of Bontoc MPS, “we can’t please everyone, we can’t stop the commission of crime, but we can prevent by honestly doing our part, and that is by patrolling. And if ever crime is committed, we try and do our best to investigate and file appropriate legal action against the offenders. That is part of our legal mandate.”



The principle of “*crime prevention is everybody’s business,*” asserts that not only the sole responsibility of the police but can only be attained with the active support of the civilians. This principle explains that any private person can prevent crime by reporting attempts to commit crimes to the proper authorities.

The *Doctrine of reciprocal responsibility* explains that the police on their own cannot effectively prevent and control crimes. The participation and support of the citizenry in their anti-crime campaign is indispensable. The implementation of crime prevention program includes several groups and members to come into one agreement and to consolidate effort to address crimes in general.

**Table 5**

***The extent of Participation of the residents in the Implementation of Crime Prevention Programs in Bontoc, Mountain Province (N = 356)***

Indicators	WM	VI
The residents of Bontoc participate in Crime Prevention by:		
1. Reporting violations of ordinance or law to the police and/or other government authorities.	2.60	Often Participated
2. Not committing any crime or violating any ordinance being implemented in the municipality.	2.47	Sometimes Participated
3. Joining the police in conducting patrol in the municipality	2.36	Sometimes Participated
4. Creating and implementing the program of activities like sports fest for the residents	2.32	Sometimes Participated
5. Sponsoring awards to be given to barangays of sectors within the municipality for them to be encouraged in maintaining peace and order in their place.	2.46	Sometimes Participated
6. Attending meeting relative to peace and order being called by the police, public officials, and/or other	2.69	Often Participated



authorities in Bontoc		
7. Respecting the dialogue or <i>tut-uya</i> among and between residents not to commit crime especially killing another	2.78	Often Participated
8. Protecting their neighbors' properties like house and its premises when neighbors are not around (Neighborhood watch)	2.61	Often Participated
9. Organizing themselves regularly to initiate proposal/s for the peace and order maintenance in the municipality	2.51	Often Participated
10. Helping the police becoming as an active and participating witness to a crime or violation of an ordinance	2.52	Often Participated
<b>Overall Mean</b>	<b>2.53</b>	<b>Often Participated</b>

Table 5 presents the extent of participation of the residents in the implementation of the crime prevention programs in Bontoc, Mountain Province.

Overall, the respondents rated the indicators to be often participated as evidenced by the mean rating of 2.53. In summary, the residents often participated in the crime prevention programs, likewise, residents of the community often participated in the crime prevention programs. However, programs on creating and implementing programs of activities sometimes participate. It is noted that the residents had the reluctance/negative attitude of creating programs of which they are to implement. Reluctance for programming several activities were present mainly because of the financial constraints for these programs to be implemented.

As gleaned from the table, the respondents responded and rated six (6) indicators as "often participated," while four (4) were rated "sometimes participated." The residents often participated in reporting crimes, attending meetings and dialogues, protecting neighbors, organizing themselves and helping the police the best they can. This means that the



residents are responsive and are civic-minded people for they are sensitive to peace and order.

As gleaned from table 5, the indicator, “the residents of Bontoc respect the dialogue or *tut-uya* among and between residents not to commit crime especially killing another” obtained the highest mean of 2.78, interpreted as often participated.

On the other hand, the indicator on “creating and implementing program of activities like sports fest for the residents” was perceived by the respondents with a mean of 2.32, interpreted as sometimes participated. This is an indication that the residents preferred other means to prevent crime and not only to be focused on sports games. As claimed by one resident, “we may not have office works but we have our own business in the town. Likewise with some relatives where they work in their respective farms. These make people busy in our municipality.”

As observed and experienced by the researchers, people of Bontoc participate in sports during festivals but not too participative when it comes to special programs or regular programs created in the different barangays.

The residents have to follow the so-called Doctrine of Reciprocal Responsibility which explains that the police on their own cannot effectively prevent and control crimes. The participation and support of the citizenry in their anti-crime campaign is indispensable. This is part of the vision of the PNP to have a responsive community.

Likewise, Sir Robert Peel once stated “the police are the public and the public are the police.” This phrase explains that the police cannot be effective without the support from the people in the community.

However, in Japan, with the use of Koban System, the police can get the full cooperation of their citizens in all crime prevention measures they would want to implement.



Relative to the indigenous crime prevention measures of Bontoc such as the *pechen*, *ator*, *maipaila*, *fagfaga*, and other practices, the elders and barangay officials in each barangay are united and respect/honor the tradition and culture by following the long practice of their forefathers. These practices are respected due to some advantages such as the quick resolution of cases, it saves time and effort of both parties and less expenses to both parties.

**Table 6**

***The extent of Participation of the Residents in the Implementation of Crime Prevention Programs in Bontoc, Mountain Province According to Group (N=356)***

Indicators	PNP (44)	PO (30)	RES (282)
The residents of Bontoc participate in crime prevention by:			
1. Reporting violations of ordinance or law to the police and/or other government authorities.	3.32 (SoP)	2.63 (OP)	2.49 (SoP)
2. Not committing any crime or violating any ordinance being implemented in the municipality.	2.95 (OP)	2.27 (SoP)	2.42 (SoP)
3. Joining the police in conducting patrolling the municipality	2.91 (OP)	2.30 (SoP)	2.28 (SoP)
4. Creating and implementing the program of activities like sports fest for the residents	2.73 (OP)	2.23 (SoP)	2.27 (SoP)
5. Sponsoring awards to be given to barangays of sectors within the municipality for them to be encouraged in maintaining peace and order in their place.	2.70 (OP)	2.47 (SoP)	2.43 (SoP)
6. Attending meeting relative to peace and order being called by the police, public officials, and/or other authorities in Bontoc	3.32 (AP)	2.93 (OP)	2.57 (OP)



7. Respecting the dialogue or <i>tut-uya</i> among and between residents not to commit crime especially killing another	3.30 (A)	2.90 (OP)	2.68 (OP)
8. Protecting their neighbors' properties like house and its premises when neighbors are not around (Neighborhood watch)	3.05 (OP)	2.57 (OP)	2.54 (OP)
9. Organizing themselves regularly to initiate proposal/s for the peace and order maintenance in the municipality	2.86 (OP)	2.30 (SoP)	2.48 (SoP)
10. Helping the police becoming as an active and participating witness to a crime or violation of an ordinance	2.95 (OP)	2.63 (OP)	2.44 (SoP)
<b>Overall Mean</b>	<b>3.01 (OP)</b>	<b>2.52 (OP)</b>	<b>2.46 (SoP)</b>

Table 6 provides the findings of the extent of participation of the residents of Bontoc in the implementation of crime prevention programs based on the perceptions of police, public officials and the residents themselves.

The extent of participation of the residents in the implementation of the crime prevention programs indicates that the PNP and the public officials similarly perceived that the residents often participated in the implementation of the crime prevention programs. This means that the residents often participated in these crime prevention programs. However, the residents perceived that they sometimes participate in the crime prevention programs of the municipality.

The PNP personnel group of respondents gave a mean rating of 3.01, interpreted as often participated, the public officials provided an overall mean of 2.52, interpreted as often participated, the same with the mean given by the police respondents, and the residents rated themselves as 2.46, interpreted as sometimes participated.



The findings above indicate that the implementers to include police and public officials acknowledge the participation or help of the residents as indicated by the mean and interpretations in the table, however the residents perceived themselves to be not much participative as indicated by their response "sometimes participated." This means that the community residents felt that there were crime prevention programs that they believe were not participated by the residents. This could have happened as they were not properly informed of such or that there were no information materials used in informing the public.

One of the barangay kagawad stated, "if there are programs on crime prevention to be implemented in our barangay, we support it but we can't assure the support of our constituents because they have also their judgment." Nevertheless, "we still encourage every resident in our barangay that they should participate for the general welfare," the barangay kagawad added.

**Table 7**

**Summary of ANOVA on the Extent of Participation of the Residents in the Implementation of Crime Prevention Program in Bontoc, Mountain Province According to Group**

Source of Variation	Mean Sum of Squares	df	Estimated Variance	F-ratio
Between	214.712	2	0.903	
Within	215.020	27	0.045	20.067
F.05 = 3.362		Decision: Reject Ho		

Table 7 presents the summary of the test of significance using ANOVA on the extent of participation of the residents in the implementation of the crime prevention programs in the Municipality of Bontoc.

In the F-test, shown in Table 7, the computed F-ratio of 20.067 is greater than the tabled F-ratio of 3.362 at 5 percent level of significance, thus, the null hypothesis is rejected. Therefore, there are significant differences in the perceived extent of participation of the residents in the implementation of the crime prevention programs of the municipality along



with the group. Further, the group varies the extent of participation of the residents in the implementation of the crime prevention programs of the municipality.

This implies that the residents were not that very active in supporting the crime prevention programs of the Bontoc MPS. When some residents were asked of the reasons, they provided the following:

In an informal interview with one of the residents of Bontoc Ili, he stated "There is no unique and specific program on crime prevention of the Bontoc MPS. All they have is the mobile and foot patrolling activities in which we are also supporting. These techniques are traditional, yet effective, though we see these activities as their function together with the elected public officials. We as civilians have no primary function but to report crimes that may happen to our view."

Considering the response above, the researcher asked one police officer and she said: "Yes, patrolling to include foot and mobile means of preventing crimes are traditional but proven effective." In any place like Bontoc, these are proven to be effective. Nevertheless, it is also open to other programs that will fit a place considering other factors like, culture, climate, and the number of personnel involved.

The indigenous crime prevention practices in Bontoc, Mountain Province include the observance of "*Pechen*," "*Ator*," "*Inayan or Lawa*," "*Fagfaga*," and "*Maipaila*" systems. These are unique means of preventing as well as prosecuting (refers to the summary hearing conducted by elders to determine the guilt of accused) violators of these indigenous rules and regulations as agreed upon themselves.

Concerning the assessment of the respondents on the implementation of the crime prevention program, the following elements of crime such as motive, opportunity, and instrumentality garnered the overall mean of 2.51, interpreted as much implemented. It was also found out that there are significant differences in the perceptions of the groups of respondents.



On the extent of participation of the residents in the enforcement of the crime prevention programs, the respondents revealed an overall mean of 2.53, interpreted as often participated. The responses of the PNP personnel compared to that of the public officials and residents differed as indicated by the test using ANOVA.

Based on the result of the study, an action plan was made to address the significant findings of the study on the assessment of implementation and extent of participation of residents in the crime prevention program in Bontoc, Mountain Province.

Thus, in consideration of the above findings, the crime prevention programs of Bontoc in Mountain Province were effective and but need an enhanced support of the community for law enforcement crafted initiatives on crime prevention.

## CONCLUSIONS

In the light of the findings, the following conclusions were drawn:

The Municipality of Bontoc in Mountain Province practices indigenous means of preventing commission of crimes. Their major ways of crime prevention include *pechen* system, *ator* system, *maipaila* system, and *fagfaga* system. The indigenous practices have similarities such as in the administration of penalty. With these practices the centralized barangays maintained peace and order. The indigenous crime prevention practices are satisfactory and effective in preventing the commission of crimes.

Despite the effort of Bontoc MPS of performing its mandate in maintaining peace and order, the public officials and residents felt to a little extent its implementation.

The residents of the centralized barangays were quite hesitant in participating in the crime prevention programs in Bontoc while the police and public officials acknowledged the help and assistance of the residents.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the foregoing conclusions, the researcher hereby recommends the following:

1. The indigenous means of preventing crimes must be maintained. This must be done by enhancing information dissemination among residents of Bontoc.
2. The Bontoc MPS should consider using posters and flyers that contain crime prevention tips and that contain emergency contact numbers of the PNP and other concerned agencies and offices.
3. The Bontoc LGU must consider giving budget for the purchase of CCTV units that should be placed in areas that are considered crime-prone especially in the central part of Bontoc and other places that may be identified by the police who know security survey.
4. The police in close coordination with the barangay officials and private sectors must regularly conduct *Oplan Kap-kap operation*.
5. The Bontoc LGU and MPS should synchronize their program by combining their resources in enhancing the cooperation of the residents to engage more in crime prevention programs of the municipality;
6. Similar researches may be conducted on crime prevention programs in Bontoc and may focus on the prosecution of suspects using the indigenous practices and regular filing of cases.
7. As an off-shoot of the study, the action plan is offered to be adopted for implementation.

### Action Plan on Crime Prevention for Bontoc, Mountain Province

The action plan was formulated based on the results of the study. The key result areas were fully based on the lowest-rated indicators concerning every variable or problem. The weakness, need, objectives, strategies, funds, and implementers are hereby identified.

KEY RESULT AREA	OBJECTIVES	STRATEGY	STAKEHOLDER S	FEEDBACK MECHANISM



Use of Posters and Flyers Geared Towards Crime Prevention	To regularly inform all residents of crime prevention tips as well as emergency contact numbers	A contest on poster making, slogan making, and flyer content designed by the Bontoc MPS or the Bontoc LGU. The winning pieces shall be enhanced for distribution and posting in the community. The distribution shall be done regularly.	Bontoc MPS Bontoc LGU Barangay Officials Residents	To be monitored continuously. Written report
CCTV Installation	To be able to record crime commissions that can help investigators understand the details of the crime	The Bontoc MPS will write a letter to the Bontoc LGU Council to allot a special budget for the CCTV units and its installation.	Bontoc MPS Bontoc LGU Barangay Officials	The Bontoc MPS shall annually evaluate the use, installation and other factors that would affect the project
Activities of Bontoc MPS and Barangay Officials do not jibe.	To be able to gain the full support of the community for police activities	The coordination and synchronization of all activities of the police and	Bontoc MPS Barangay Officials Community Leaders	The Bontoc MPS shall evaluate every activity.



		<p>barangay officials shall be done for smooth crime prevention program</p> <p>The Bontoc MPS shall initiate a dialogue with the Punong Barangays to submit their plan. It shall be followed by a series of meetings to jibe schedule, date and time of activities.</p>	School Officials	<p>Written report</p> <p>Inspection</p>
Conduct of Sports fest Activity	To create a program of instruction on crime prevention that are ready-made for implementation to the community through sports fest	<p>The PCR Section of the Bontoc MPS shall formulate a program of activities to be passed to the Bontoc LGU for comment and implementation.</p> <p>Regular conduct</p>	Bontoc MPS Barangay Officials Community Leaders	<p>The recipients of the activity shall evaluate the activity conducted.</p> <p>Written report</p>



		of sports fest shall be implemented to divert the attention of youth to sports instead of committing crimes.		
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## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The researchers express their gratitude to the members of the research examination committee of the University of Baguio Graduate School for their inputs that lead to the refinement of the study. Likewise to the administrative officials and faculty members of Mountain Province Polytechnic College (MPSPC), Bontoc, Mountain Province, Philippines for allowing one of the researchers to pursue higher education, and to all research participants from Bontoc, Mountain Province, North Philippines for assisting the researchers in many ways.