

Community Based Security and Curbing of Kidnapping in Oke-Ogun, Oyo State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This research explores the impact of community-focused security measures on reducing kidnapping incidents in Oke-Ogun, Oyo State, Nigeria. Kidnapping poses a serious threat to public safety and economic well-being, especially in rural regions like Oke-Ogun, where insufficient security infrastructure and extensive unmonitored areas worsen the situation. Despite various initiatives by law enforcement, instances of kidnapping continue to increase, highlighting the necessity for alternative security strategies. The objective of this research was to evaluate the effectiveness of community-based security in lowering kidnapping rates in the Oke-Ogun region of Oyo State. A descriptive quantitative research design was employed, involving a sample of 126 participants chosen through stratified random sampling from various towns within Oke-Ogun. Data collection was carried out using a structured questionnaire to gauge local perceptions regarding community-based security initiatives, including vigilante groups, neighborhood watch programs, and partnerships with formal security agencies. The data was analyzed utilizing descriptive statistics, including frequency, percentage, and mean values. The study identified the primary factors contributing to kidnapping in Oke-Ogun as weak law enforcement, insufficient security, unemployment, and poverty. Furthermore, it highlighted challenges such as inadequate funding, insufficient training, and poor collaboration with formal security entities. The results indicate that community-based security, when adequately supported and coordinated, has the capacity to significantly decrease the occurrence of kidnappings in Oke-Ogun. The study advocates for strengthening law enforcement presence, enhancing community engagement initiatives, addressing socioeconomic issues like unemployment and poverty, and increasing public awareness regarding security practices.

Keywords: Community, community-based security, security, curbing, kidnapping

Introduction

Nigeria is currently facing a severe surge in kidnapping cases, which is critically affecting both public safety and economic stability (Ngwama, 2014; Punch, 2024). The last few years have seen a significant increase in kidnapping incidents, with 2024 already reporting distressing figures. Statistics indicate that from January to July, at least 2,140 people have been abducted across 24 states, with Zamfara and Kaduna being the most affected, recording 667 and 454 cases, respectively (Punch, 2024). Among the notable events are the mass kidnapping of 287 students in Kaduna State in March and the

abduction of 200 locals during a single incident in Niger State, underscoring the widespread nature of these offenses (Braga, 2024). Additionally, in Oyo State, the abduction of six people, including a traditional leader, along the Oyo-Ibadan Expressway on August 25, 2024, illustrates the growing security issues in the area, reflecting the nationwide rise in kidnappings (Punch, 2024). The financial implications of ransom payments are also staggering. Families reportedly paid around N389 million as ransom in the first seven months of 2024, which includes a payment of N60 million for the release of six sisters in Abuja (Punch, 2024). These statistics highlight the economic and emotional burden on victims and their families. Although the government claims to have improved security measures, the increasing frequency and severity of kidnappings undermine these assertions.

Public perception continues to be doubtful as the crisis worsens, leaving citizens fearful and uncertain. Many now think twice before embarking on early morning trips, and routine travel has become a dangerous endeavor due to the elevated risk of kidnappings. This intensifying crisis disrupts everyday life and stunts economic development, as business activities are interrupted and investors are deterred from regions suffering from insecurity. The current situation demands urgent intervention that combines both state and community initiatives to effectively address this issue. Therefore, this troubling situation highlights the necessity for timely and sustainable solutions, with community-based security emerging as a potential strategy, as suggested by Zubairu (2020). This study aims to investigate the effectiveness of Zubairu's proposed strategy specifically in Oke-Ogun, Oyo State, to assess its impact on reducing kidnappings in the area. Community-based security represents a localized strategy that utilizes community involvement, local expertise, and resources to improve safety and tackle security challenges, including kidnapping (Acha et al., 2023). Research by Abiloye et al. (2024) indicates that crime rates noticeably decline when communities actively engage in their own security, which supports findings from Adefemi (2020) who noted that community vigilante groups in northern Nigeria have greatly reduced kidnapping incidents. This observation aligns with conclusions drawn by Abrahams (2018), who found that community policing in South Africa resulted in a drop in violent crimes, including kidnapping. Relating these findings to the situation in Nigeria, it becomes evident that community-based security shows considerable potential if adequately supported. The key lies in integrating these community efforts with broader national security strategies. Uzochukwu (2022) advocates for policies that encourage cooperation and mutual assistance, stressing the importance of a strong partnership between community groups and law enforcement agencies.

Kidnapping

Kidnapping is generally described as the illegal abduction or confinement of an individual, often for ransom, coercion, or other illicit purposes (Ibrahim and Mukhtar, 2017). While some definitions highlight the financial dimension, others focus on the psychological and physical harm inflicted upon victims. These divergent perspectives

underscore the complexity of the crime, requiring a nuanced understanding before exploring its ramifications (Peter & Osaat, 2021). Over the last ten years, Nigeria has witnessed a marked increase in kidnapping events, particularly involving the abduction of schoolchildren, expatriates, and political figures. Research has indicated that the reasons behind kidnapping vary from insufficient and ineffective law enforcement, political instability, to economic inequality (Okoli & Agada, 2014). The Niger Delta and northern Nigeria are regions where the incidence is notably high, with socio-economic challenges being more apparent. Kidnapping in Nigeria has transitioned from isolated acts to a widespread criminal phenomenon. Initially linked primarily to the Niger Delta, where militants engaged in kidnapping expatriates for ransom to finance their activities and highlight their grievances against the federal government (Ikelegbe, 2005; Aliyu & Lawal, 2020).

Community-based Security

Community-based security encompasses grassroots initiatives, such as neighborhood watch programs and vigilant groups, which have become more prominent due to the constraints faced by formal security agencies. As stated by Aliyu and Lawal (2020), these initiatives offer prompt responses and have played a crucial role in mitigating the risks associated with kidnapping and similar crimes. They further highlighted that these groups are able to act swiftly and effectively because of their familiarity with local areas and social networks. Additionally, the effectiveness of community-based security in regions like the South-East was underscored by Onuoha (2018), who noted that local security measures have led to a marked decrease in kidnapping incidents. Onuoha also points out the significance of local knowledge and the trust community members place in these groups, a trust that is frequently absent in state security organizations. This perspective aligns with Afolabi (2021), who noted that involving community leaders and traditional rulers in security initiatives bolsters the legitimacy and acceptance of these efforts. In northern Nigeria, Chikwendu, Nwankwo, and Oli (2016) reported that vigilante groups have become a vital element of community-based security, as these groups work closely with local police to combat kidnapping and other crimes and engage in regular patrols. Similarly, Gilbert and Ordu (2017) noted the pivotal role of these groups in reducing instances of kidnapping through prompt threat responses and vigilant surveillance, which is enhanced by the involvement of community members who possess deep knowledge of their surroundings.

Otu and Apeh (2022) sought to evaluate the influence of regional policing on crime prevention, specifically examining the efforts of Amotekun in the Oke Ogun and Ibarapa communities of Oyo State. The research employed a descriptive survey approach, collecting data from 139 participants selected randomly from a population of 1,602,979 using Taro Yamane's statistical formula. The results indicated that criminal activities, including kidnappings, significantly impeded socio-economic progress in these areas, leading to issues such as restricted movement, decreased investments, and social instability. Although Amotekun contributed to crime prevention, the study identified

challenges such as community distrust, lack of funding, and inadequate modern equipment. The study suggested increasing funding, acquiring advanced security technologies, and enhancing public awareness of Amotekun's successes to improve its crime-fighting effectiveness. Adewale (2023) investigated the impacts of insecurity on agricultural activities, community mobility, and social cohesion in the Ibarapa North Local Government Area of Oyo State. The study utilized a descriptive survey design, sampling 1,000 residents from a targeted population of 3,000 through random and stratified sampling methods. Findings revealed that insecurity, including kidnapping, had a profound effect on agricultural activities, disrupted community mobility, and contributed to disunity among citizens. The study concluded that insecurity significantly affects community development and recommended collaborative efforts by stakeholders, including government officials and community leaders, through town hall dialogues to tackle security issues and promote unity.

Ojedokun et al. (2023) examined the counter-banditry strategies implemented by communities affected by banditry in Oyo State. The research utilized an exploratory and cross-sectional approach, guided by situational crime prevention theory, and data collection involved in-depth interviews, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions. Findings revealed that although communities had executed various internal and external measures to combat banditry, these actions had only partially alleviated the frequency of kidnappings and related crimes. Despite some degree of success, the study revealed that the challenges persisted, as individuals continued to fall victim to kidnappers, emphasizing the ongoing vulnerability of these communities. Adesola (2019) sought to explore the influence of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in the management of crime and security in the Ido Local Government Area of Oyo State. The research utilized field surveying techniques, incorporating Hi-target differential GPS and GIS software to pinpoint crime hotspots and evaluate how close police stations were to these locations. The findings indicated that GIS could greatly improve crime management by recognizing patterns and enhancing response times. Nevertheless, even with the efficacy of GIS in security management, the study highlighted the need for further initiatives and more attention from governmental and law enforcement entities to sufficiently tackle crime, including kidnapping, in the area.

Theoretical Framework

This investigation is grounded in Social Capital Theory, which underscores the significance of social networks, trust, and collaboration in promoting collective action within communities. Initially formulated by thinkers like Pierre Bourdieu and subsequently elaborated on by Robert Putnam, Social Capital Theory asserts that communities with elevated levels of trust and robust social connections are better positioned to confront shared challenges, such as security threats. In the setting of community-based security (CBS) efforts in Oke-Ogun, Oyo State, this theory offers a perspective for understanding how local residents can unite to address the escalating risk of kidnapping through mutual resources, cooperation, and vigilance within the

community. The availability of social capital facilitates efficient collaboration among inhabitants, traditional leaders, and local authorities, thereby increasing the efficiency of CBS. Putnam's idea of bonding social capital, depicting how tightly-knit communities utilize strong internal networks to tackle shared issues, corresponds with the operational dynamics of CBS units leveraging local trust and collaboration to combat insecurity at the grassroots level. Empirical data supports the relevance of Social Capital Theory in security initiatives. For example, research by Adefemi (2020) indicates that well-funded and organized community-based security groups demonstrate higher efficacy in areas with strong social capital, as residents are more likely to engage and place trust in each other to safeguard their interests. Furthermore, Eze and Obiora (2022) contend that robust community ties between CBS groups and local law enforcement in certain regions of Northern Nigeria have resulted in notable reductions in crime rates, including kidnapping. This suggests that community-based security initiatives, when bolstered by strong social capital, can serve as an informal yet effective mechanism for crime prevention. Consequently, Social Capital Theory offers an appropriate framework to comprehend how the Oke-Ogun community can utilize internal trust, cooperation, and shared accountability to mitigate kidnapping and improve local security measures.

Statement of the problem

The ongoing increase in kidnapping cases throughout Nigeria has fostered an environment filled with fear, insecurity, and economic stagnation, especially in rural regions such as Oke-Ogun, Oyo State. In spite of the attempts made by law enforcement agencies, these abductions continue to rise, as criminals exploit weak security systems, extensive unmonitored areas, and police units that lack resources (Alemika, 2013; Eze, 2020). Oke-Ogun, which is noted for its agricultural output, is particularly at risk due to its isolated location and dependence on poorly protected transport routes (Oyedokun et al., 2022). Farmers, merchants, and travelers often become targets of kidnapers, resulting in interruptions in farming activities and endangering the livelihoods of local inhabitants. Although community-driven security initiatives have been suggested and enacted in various regions of Nigeria, obstacles such as insufficient funding, inadequate training, and limited collaboration with official security forces frequently hinder their success. This gap raises questions about whether Oke-Ogun's current security arrangements can effectively tackle the kidnapping dilemma. Consequently, it is crucial to implement an improved and well-coordinated community-based security strategy that addresses these issues to ensure the safety and welfare of the people in Oke-Ogun.

Objectives of the Study

The primary aim of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of community-based security in decreasing kidnapping occurrences in the Oke-Ogun region of Oyo State. The specific objectives are:

1. To evaluate the present situation regarding kidnapping in Oke-Ogun, Oyo State.

2. To identify the main factors that contribute to its prevalence.
3. To assess the efficacy of community-based security measures in thwarting
 1. kidnappings in Oke-Ogun.
4. To examine the views and experiences of community members concerning the effect of these security measures on their safety and welfare.

Research Questions

1. What is the current situation regarding kidnapping in Oke-Ogun, Oyo State?
2. What are the primary factors contributing to the prevalence of kidnapping in Oke-Ogun?
3. How effective are community-based security measures in preventing kidnappings in Oke-Ogun?
4. How do community members perceive and experience the effects of these security measures on their safety and welfare?

Methodology

This research adopted a descriptive quantitative research design to examine the role of community-based security in addressing kidnapping in the Oke-Ogun region of Oyo State, Nigeria. The quantitative method was selected to yield measurable and statistical insights regarding the effectiveness of community-based security initiatives in reducing incidents of kidnapping. The target population comprised residents of Oke-Ogun, including community members, local security personnel, and individuals familiar with the security measures deployed. A sample of 126 participants was chosen through a stratified random sampling method to ensure representation from various towns and demographic segments within the area. This approach facilitated the inclusion of participants from diverse backgrounds, enhancing the generalizability of the results.

Data was gathered using a structured questionnaire named "Community-Based Security and Kidnapping Reduction Questionnaire" (CBSKRQ). This questionnaire was developed to evaluate participants' views on the efficacy of local security measures in deterring kidnapping. It comprised closed-ended questions formatted on a 5-point Likert scale. The questions concentrated on aspects such as the effectiveness of local vigilante groups, cooperation with formal security agencies, and the participation of community members in security initiatives. To confirm the content validity of the instrument, experts in community policing and security studies reviewed the questionnaire. These experts offered feedback regarding the relevance and clarity of the questions, ensuring their alignment with the study's goals. The reliability of the questionnaire was assessed through a pilot study with 30 individuals who were not included in the main research. A

Cronbach's alpha reliability coefficient of 0.82 was achieved, signifying a high degree of internal consistency. Data collection took place over a period of three weeks, during which the questionnaires were distributed to the chosen participants. The completed questionnaires were collected, and the data were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages and mean.

Result

Demographic Information

Table 1: Gender Distribution

Gender

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	74	58.7%
Female	52	41.3%
Total	126	100%

Table 1 revealed fifty-two (52) (41.3%) of the respondents are female while seventy-four (74) (58.7%) are male. This implies that the majority of respondents are male.

Table 2: Age Distribution

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
18 – 25yrs	56	44.4%
26- 35yrs	50	39.7%
36 – 45yrs	14	11.1%
46 – 55yrs	2	1.6%
56yrs and above	4	3.3%
Total	126	100%

Table 2 shows that the largest segment of respondents (44.4%) falls within the 18– 25 years range, followed by 39.7% aged 26– 35 years. Smaller portions are aged 36– 45 years (11.1%), 46– 55 years (1.6%), and 56 years and above (3.2%). This means that majority of the respondents are youths

Table 3: Distribution on duration of staying in Oke-Ogun.

Items	Frequency	Percentage
Less than a year	16	12.7%
1- 5yrs	32	25.4%
6 - 10yrs	4	3.2%
10yrs and above	74	58.7%
Total	126	100%

Table 3 shows that 58.7% of respondents have lived there within Oke-ogun for more than 10 years. Those with 1-5 years of residence make up 25.4%, while 12.7% have been in the area for less than one year, and 3.2% have lived there for 6-10 years. This implies that most of the respondents have an idea of the security situation within the area and have lived within Oke-ogun for 5yrs and above.

Research Question 1: What are the causes of kidnapping in Oke-Ogun, Oyo State?

Table 4: Perception on the causes of kidnapping in Oke-Ogun, Oyo State.

S/N	Items	SA	A	N	D	SD	Mean
Decision							
		Fre. (%)	Freg.(%)	Freg.(%)	Freg.(%)	Freg.(%)	
1.	Unemployment Agree	56(33.3)	40(31.7)	18(14.3)	10(7.9)	2(1.6)	4.18
2.	Lack of security Agree	44(34.9)	62(49.2)	6(4.8)	8(6.3)	6(4.8)	4.11
3.	Poverty Agree	42(33.3)	50(39.7)	10(7.9)	20(15.9)	4(3.2)	4.03
4.	Weak law enforcement	60(47.6)	56(44.4)	2(1.6)	4(3.2)	4(3.2)	4.32

Weighted Mean = 4.08; Criterion Mean = 3.00

Table 4 shows that the major causes of kidnapping in Ogun is weak law enforcement with level of agreement of 116(92.0%) and mean of 4.32. This is followed by lack of security with the agreement level of 106 (84%) and mean of 4.11. The least factor that

causes kidnapping in Oke-Ogun is poverty with the agreement level of 92(73%) and mean of 4.03. This showed that the causes of kidnapping as expressed by the respondents are weak law enforcement, lack of security, unemployment and poverty are the major causes of kidnapping in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State.

Table 3: Community-Based Security Strategies

S/N	Items	SA	A	N	D	SD	Mean	Decision
1	Local vigilante groups	50 (39.7%)	52 (41.3%)	10 (7.9%)	6 (4.8%)	8 (6.3%)	4.02	Agree
2	Collaboration between local vigilante groups and formal security agencies	44 (34.9%)	56 (44.4%)	18 (14.3%)	2 (1.6%)	6 (4.8%)	4.09	Agree
3	The presence of local vigilantes.	40 (31.7%)	46 (36.5%)	18 (14.3%)	14 (11.1%)	8 (6.3%)	4.03	Agree
4	There are regular patrols or checkpoints	36 (28.6%)	60 (47.6%)	8 (6.3%)	16 (12.7%)	6 (4.8%)	4.01	Agree
5	Neighborhood watch	60 (47.6%)	48 (38.1%)	8 (6.3%)	4 (3.2%)	6 (4.8%)	4.19	Agree
6	Community surveillance cameras	64 (50.8%)	36 (28.6%)	6 (4.8%)	8 (6.3%)	12 (9.5%)	4.19	Agree
7	Use of local whistleblowers	58 (46.0%)	48 (38.1%)	10 (7.9%)	4 (3.2%)	6 (4.8%)	4.13	Agree

8	Public security meetings	62 (49.2%)	54 (42.9%)	6 (4.8%)	2 (1.6%)	2 (1.6%)	4.23	Agree
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Weighted Mean = 4.11

Criterion Mean = 3.00

The results, with a weighted mean of 4.11, show strong support for community-based security strategies in Oke-Ogun. All items scored above 4.00, indicating widespread agreement on the importance of community involvement in enhancing security. The highest agreement was for "Public security meetings," with 92.1% (49.2% strongly agree, 42.9% agree) supporting it (mean = 4.23). "Neighborhood watch" and "Community surveillance cameras" received mean scores of 4.19, with 85.7% (47.6% strongly agree, 38.1% agree) supporting neighborhood watch and 79.4% (50.8% strongly agree, 28.6% agree) endorsing surveillance cameras. "Use of local whistleblowers" had 84.1% (46% strongly agree, 38.1% agree) support (mean = 4.13), and "Collaboration between local vigilante groups and formal security agencies" was endorsed by 79.3% (34.9% strongly agree, 44.4% agree). Other strategies like regular patrols, local vigilantes, and checkpoints also received favorable responses, with mean scores around 4.00.

Table 4: Community Perception and Experiences

S/N	Items	SA	A	N	D	SD	Mean	Decision
1	Felt safer	52 (41.3%)	52 (41.3%)	16 (12.7%)	4 (3.2%)	2 (1.6%)	4.14	Agree
2	Reduced overall crime rate	38 (30.2%)	70 (55.6%)	12 (9.5%)	4 (3.2%)	2 (1.6%)	4.14	Agree
3	Confident with CBS	44 (34.9%)	56 (44.4%)	10 (7.9%)	8 (6.3%)	8 (6.3%)	4.02	Agree
4	CBS contribution	40 (31.7%)	46 (36.5%)	26 (20.6%)	10 (7.9%)	4 (3.2%)	3.94	Agree
5	Satisfaction	28	34	20	28	16	3.38	Agree

with CBS (22.2%) (27.0%) (15.9%) (22.2%) (12.7%)

Weighted Mean = 3,92

Criterion Mean = 3.00

The results, which have a weighted average of 3.92, indicate strong backing for community-oriented security initiatives in Oke-Ogun. A significant 82.6% (41.3% strongly in favor, 41.3% in favor) report feeling safer following the introduction of these initiatives (average = 4.14), and 85.8% (30.2% strongly in favor, 55.6% in favor) believe that these strategies have led to a reduction in crime rates. Concerning personal safety, 79.3% (34.9% strongly in favor, 44.4% in favor) expressed trust in the effectiveness of these measures (average = 4.02), while 68.2% (31.7% strongly in favor, 36.5% in favor) actively engage in security initiatives (average = 3.94). Nevertheless, satisfaction with the overall security level was a bit lower, with an average score of 3.38, as 49.2% reported satisfaction, whereas 22.2% were neutral, and 15.9% disagreed.

Discussion

The results of the first research question regarding the factors contributing to kidnapping in Oke-Ogun indicated that the primary causes are inadequate law enforcement, insufficient security, unemployment, and poverty. This supports the conclusions of Ebobo and Akujobi (2022), Ebobo et al. (2020), and Obarisiagbon and Akintoye (2019), who argue that elevated unemployment, poverty, and feeble security infrastructures worsen crime rates, especially kidnapping. The perception of heightened insecurity and an increase in kidnappings in recent years mirrors national patterns, where economic declines and ineffective law enforcement play a significant role in the crisis. Socioeconomic conditions, notably unemployment and poverty, are viewed as critical motivators of kidnapping, reaffirming Inyang and Abraham's (2013) argument that economic deprivation in developing nations encourages criminal behavior. The lack of strong law enforcement in Oke-Ogun, as highlighted by respondents, also corresponds with Ajayi and Longe's (2015) findings on the necessity of efficient policing for crime reduction. Tackling the underlying causes of insecurity through economic empowerment and reinforced security is crucial for diminishing kidnapping in the area.

Furthermore, the study reveals a robust endorsement for community-driven security measures, particularly public safety meetings, neighborhood watch initiatives, and surveillance cameras, showcasing a belief in the significance of local engagement in improving security. This aligns with research by Joseph, Umar, and Amshi (2024), which illustrated that community-focused initiatives encourage collaboration between residents and law enforcement, resulting in safer neighborhoods. The focus on collective effort and information sharing resonates with Arisukwu et al. (2020), who pointed out that local involvement nurtures a sense of ownership and accountability, encouraging proactive

crime prevention actions. The study emphasizes strong support for local whistleblowers and cooperation between vigilante groups and official security agencies, implying that merging informal and formal security strategies is more effective in addressing intricate security issues. This complements Ragolane and Khoza's (2024) focus on combining local insights with formal law enforcement capabilities to combat organized crime and boost community safety. The endorsement of these strategies demonstrates that Oke-Ogun communities appreciate the complementary role of community-led initiatives alongside formal security frameworks, acknowledging their limitations and recognizing the need for multi-tiered approaches to crime prevention.

The results also show that there is a largely favorable view of community-based security initiatives, with numerous residents feeling more secure and believing that crime rates have dropped. This is in line with the findings of Adebayo et al. (2020), who suggested that community policing and local security initiatives promote a sense of collective efficacy, which in turn reduces crime rates and builds trust. The residents' perception of declining crime in Oke-Ogun supports the work of Nubani et al. (2023), who concluded that effectively implemented community-based security strategies enhance safety through active participation from the community. Additionally, the involvement of residents in security activities, such as attending community meetings and reporting suspicious activities, reinforces the beneficial effects of these initiatives, echoing Maidawa's (2023) research on the crucial role of community participation in successful crime prevention. Nevertheless, the somewhat diminished satisfaction with the overall security situation indicates areas needing improvement, highlighting lingering concerns despite the favorable results. This points to broader issues concerning rural security, as highlighted by Reniers et al. (2020), who asserted that community-based security must evolve to address changing threats and vulnerabilities.

Conclusion

The research indicates that kidnapping is viewed as a major and growing worry in Oke-Ogun, driven by issues like unemployment, poverty, weak law enforcement, and insufficient security presence. Community-based security strategies, such as public security meetings, neighborhood watch programs, and local whistleblower initiatives, are strongly supported as a means to improve safety. Survey participants express feeling safer and believe in a reduction of crime due to these efforts. While active community involvement in security initiatives is a positive sign, there remains room for improvement regarding general satisfaction with security. These insights underscore the effectiveness and promise of community participation in addressing local security issues.

Recommendations

- a. Enhance law enforcement and increase security visibility to fill gaps in policing and improve the efficiency of community-based security measures.

- b. Broaden community engagement efforts by boosting participation in initiatives such as public security meetings, neighborhood watch groups, and local whistleblower programs to encourage cooperation in crime prevention.
- c. Tackle socioeconomic issues, including unemployment and poverty, through initiatives focused on job creation and poverty reduction to alleviate the root causes of kidnapping.
- d. Elevate public awareness and education by implementing campaigns that inform residents about the importance of security measures and motivate them to take an active role in community safety.

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