

# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY: APPLIED BUSINESS AND EDUCATION RESEARCH

2025, Vol. 6, No. 6, 2677 – 2685

<http://dx.doi.org/10.11594/ijmaber.06.06.02>

---

## Research Article

### Marinduque 2050: Scanning the Futures of Safety and Security, Policing, and Law Enforcement in the Province of Marinduque

Portia Recinto Hermosa<sup>1\*</sup>, Danilo Gumia Mendoza<sup>1</sup>, Katrina Evangelista De Mesa<sup>2</sup>, Alrien F. Dausan<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>College of Criminal Justice Education and Graduate School, De La Salle University – Dasmariñas, 4114, Philippines

<sup>2</sup>College of Public Administration and Governance, Romblon State University, 5511, Philippines

---

#### Article history:

Submission 11 March 2025

Revised 31 May 2025

Accepted 23 June 2025

#### \*Corresponding author:

E-mail:

[hermosa.portia@gmail.com](mailto:hermosa.portia@gmail.com)

#### ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to determine the Marinduque Safety and Security Futures Scenarios, aiming to identify areas for knowledge co-creation and sharing among stakeholders regarding safety and security. A focus group discussion was utilized to determine the ecosystem that exists among the participants through the identification of (a) the current trends, issues, and challenges on public safety and security in the Province of Marinduque; (b) determine the strategies, initiatives, practices, and actions taken by law enforcement agencies; (c) identify the potential blockers and areas for collaboration among the stakeholders; and (d) craft a futures scenario for the public safety and security. The domains of the focus group discussion are (1) Environmental Protection, (2) Maritime Law Enforcement, (3) Disaster Resilience, (4) Sexual Abuse, and (5) Community Participation were revealed to be potential blockers for Marinduque 2050 but also something that can be proactively through the integration of Routine Activity Theory, collaborating among the town and gown, further exposing a need for a whole-society approach.

**Keywords:** *Futures thinking, Public safety, Public security, Anticipatory governance, Routine Activity Theory*

---

## Introduction

The world today is characterized by volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity (VUCA), whether it pertains to the political climate, economy, public health, governance, safety, or security. The playing field has changed and now adapting to these times. The rising global demands and challenges that

confront not only governments, but the global society have tremendously impacted every aspect of human life. Global pandemics, safety and security disputes, sustainable development, climate change adaptation, disaster risk management, technological advances, and artificial intelligence, to name a few, have pushed various organizations – public, private, and

---

#### How to cite:

Hermosa, P. R., Mendoza, D. G., De Mesa, K. E., & Dausan, A. F. (2025). Marinduque 2050: Scanning the Futures of Safety and Security, Policing, and Law Enforcement in the Province of Marinduque. *International Journal of Multidisciplinary: Applied Business and Education Research*. 6(6), 2677 – 2685. doi: 10.11594/ijmaber.06.06.02

civil society- to shift the paradigm and embrace anticipatory governance and proactive measures in police administration.

Crime has been a dynamic force that changes its shape, magnitude, and form over time. Criminals shifted their ways to commit crimes, such as the exploitation of technologies to facilitate their criminal activities (Ekblom, 2022). These changes also challenged the government, specifically, the police and the law enforcement agencies, to combat criminals and maintain peace and order.

In the Philippines, the status of territorial dispute in the West Philippine Sea poses threats and uncertainties in the national security of the country. Threats arise in the country due to its geographical location and access to the global market.

In the island province of Marinduque, its people see the future with development and a safe and secure environment. In the study of Inzunza (2022), the common result of a crime victim not obtaining a sufficient response after a crime event is negative narratives that can negatively damage police-community relations. Therefore, effective first contact management is essential for a functional criminal justice system and, consequently, for social harmony (Inzunza, 2022). A working safety and security system enables the community to lead, move, and engage the community in participating in crime prevention measures.

Further, safety and security are not limited to the cycle of police arresting the offenders or the lawmakers' penalizing acts. The third generation of crime prevention through environmental design states that safety can also be represented by a happy way for locals to look for fulfilling social activities that allow them to express themselves through community activities and to meet deeper needs for themselves (Arisukwu et al., 2020). The community needs a holistic community experience and participatory governance where they can fulfill their sense of belonging.

Crime prevention is a proactive measure being done by the police to preserve peace and order within the community or their area of responsibility. In the context of the Province of Marinduque, its unique islandness issues of

safety and security can differ from other places in the Philippines.

Scott and Staines (2020) suggest that rural places, such as island provinces, have low property crime cases, but interpersonal violence, such as domestic violence, is higher. This can be supported by the data from the Marinduque Provincial Police Office that from 2018 to 2022, that out of all the reported crime cases in the Province of Marinduque, 104 of the cases were Rape followed by theft with 23 reported cases, and physical injury with 18 reported cases. The uniqueness of an island province further poses threats and vulnerabilities to drug trafficking, insurgency, maritime disputes, and environmental crimes due to its strategic location. Hence, even an island province is not a guarantee of attaining a zero-crime rate.

According to Cohen and Felson (1979), as cited by Groff (2007), Routine Activity Theory has three core elements: motivated offenders, suitable targets, and absence of capable guardians; these complete the Routine Activity Triad that allows crime to happen. In the context of futures thinking, Routine Activity Theory can be used to determine or identify how the current trends and emerging issues may affect the motivated offenders, suitable targets, and absence of capable guardians in the commission of crime in the future ("Futures: How to Apply Crime Science Theories and Perspectives," 2023). This study converges the concept of futures thinking in the scanning of trends, emerging issues, safety, security, and how they can affect the dynamics of the Routine Activity Triad in the future.

This research is based on the concept of futures thinking. Futures thinking is a cognitive process of navigating future scenarios based on environmental scanning, trends, and data that can be used in identifying emerging trends, strategic planning, policy formulation, and decision-making. Using the Casual Layer Analysis, this study maps the three futures thinking scenarios: business as usual, preferred scenario, and disowned scenario.

This research specifically aims to map the current trends, issues, and challenges on public safety and security in the Province of Marinduque; determine the strategies, initiatives,

practices, and actions taken by law enforcement agencies in the Province of Marinduque; identify the potential blockers and areas for collaboration among the stakeholders; and craft a futures scenario concerning the public safety and security of the Province of Marinduque.

## Methods

### Research Design

This study utilized a qualitative research design following causal layered analysis in the dissection of the results of the focus group discussion.

The study drew data by probing questions to which the participants of the study were guided in the scope of the discussion, yet free to give their inputs and insights about the subject at hand.

### Data Analysis

In this study, researchers employed Causal Layered Analysis (CLA) to systematically organize and examine participants' perceived futures through thematic analysis. The core themes were identified, recorded, and further analysed using the "post-structural future toolbox" to deepen insights.

This study adopts a futures thinking approach, wherein the findings from the focus group discussion are categorized according to three futures thinking archetypes, loosely derived from Voros' (2003) futures cone model. These archetypes include the Business-As-Usual Scenario, the Preferred Scenario, and the Disowned Scenario.

Furthermore, utilizing Causal Layered Analysis or CLA (Inayatullah, 1998), the participants' responses in the focus group discussion were examined across four distinct layers: litany, systems, worldview, and metaphors or myths. In this study, CLA was used as a method to understand trends, issues, and challenges of the Province of Marinduque in terms of safety and security and shape alternative futures that can be used as a research agenda or basis for long-term policies (Inayatullah, 2004).

### Sampling and Participant Selection

The study utilized a purposive sampling technique, deliberately selecting informants

based on their specific personal attributes (Etikan, 2016). The participants, identified as key informants, hold positions that enable them to represent their respective public safety and security sectors. The researchers carefully selected these participants from various public safety and security sectors within the Province of Marinduque to ensure a comprehensive and reliable data collection process.

This sampling technique is deemed highly appropriate for the study as it facilitates the identification of prevailing trends, issues, and challenges within the safety and security sector of the Province of Marinduque. By carefully selecting and engaging key informants, the study ensures the collection of firsthand insights, thereby enhancing the reliability and depth of the data gathered.

The sectors include the Marinduque Police Provincial Office (MPPPO), Boac District Jail (BDJ), Bureau of Fire Protection – Marinduque (BFP), Philippine Coast Guard – Marinduque (PCG), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources - Marinduque Provincial Fisheries Office (BFAR), Marinduque Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO), Marinduque Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO), Marinduque Council for Environmental Concerns (MACEC), and Alpha Phi Omega – Marinduque State College Petitioning Chapter (APO).

### Data Collection Method

The instrument used for this study was probing questions based on Futures Thinking and Scenario Scanning. The questions were based on the five key components: (a) the profile of the agencies and their shared vision and mission, (b) the trends, issues, and challenges that might positively or negatively affect the organization, (c) current initiatives, programs, projects, and activities being conducted by the organizations, (d) potential blockers or dilemmas faced by the organizations, and (e) future scenarios and research initiatives to watch out for where it exposed areas in the safety and security for Marinduque 2050.

The researchers sought permission from the Chief/Head of Office for an invitation to participate in the focus group discussion. Once

approved, each office sent its authorized representative. Before the start of the focus group discussion, the facilitators discussed the purpose of the study, the rights of the participants, and the risks and benefits of the study. The study utilized a single focus group discussion where there was a team of facilitators and the participants were as one group in one place (Morgan, 1996; Wong, 2008). The facilitators acted as moderators and let the participants share their thoughts, experiences, and inputs, highlighting that there are no right or wrong answers. The participants were taking turns to answer the questions. The focus group discussion lasted for three hours.

### **Ethical Consideration**

The protection of participants' rights was ensured throughout the study, adhering to principles of confidentiality, safeguarding privacy, obtaining informed consent, minimizing participant distress, and guaranteeing

voluntary participation. Given the study's focus on trends, issues, and challenges of the safety and security sector, a screening process was conducted to assess participants' eligibility for data collection and ensure that the participants are of legal age.

Before data gathering and interviews, respondents were thoroughly briefed on the study's objectives, their rights as participants, and the responsibilities of the researcher.

All recordings and transcripts were securely stored on an encrypted flash drive, ensuring exclusive access for the researchers. Any private information disclosed by participants, such as their names, was anonymized using coded identifiers. Additionally, data protection measures were implemented to uphold security, including encryption for verification purposes. Upon completion of the study, data disposal was carried out by reformatting the flash drive.

## **Result and Discussion**

*Table 1. Description of the layers of Causal Layered Analysis*

Layer	Description
Litany	What is happening right now?
Systems	What are the causes of these situations?
Worldview	What are the beliefs, principles, or ideologies that shaped the world?
Metaphors or Myths	What are the narratives behind these?

Table 1 briefly describes the probing questions or the context of each layer to properly identify the future scenarios based on the participant's narrative. Following Inayatullah (2009) as cited by Ashari and Farouk (2022), the Causal Layered Analysis consists of four layers, namely, Litany – which pertains to the trends and signals that can be observed at the present condition of the society; Systems –

refers to the causes (social, technology, economy, environment, and political) of the present condition, Worldview – it denotes the beliefs, principles, or ideologies that supports the different discourses, and Metaphors or Myths – which are the stories of different archetypes, the language used is more about creating feelings and images than being precise.

*Table 2. Business As Usual Scenario*

Layer	Description
Litany	Status quo on the safety and security of the Province; the quest for the Marcopper Mining Disaster settlement of damages incurred will be stagnant; during calamities, the Province will only experience the same services without sufficient resources; the Province will remain with relatively low crime rate however, rape cases will remain the most committed crime; due to limited resources, maritime law

Layer	Description
	enforcers will continue to persists on challenges in the enforcement of laws; with limited participation, the community will remain reactive on the observance of safety and security; streamlining of the implementation of the laws; maintenance of drug-cleared and insurgency-free Province; selected areas for collaboration among the law enforcement agencies, the stakeholders, and the academe.
Systems	Lack of funds, lack of resources, lack of human resources, insufficient database and data management systems, deficiency in community participation
Worldview	If the trends persist in the future, the Routine Activity Triad (i.e., motivated offender, suitable target, and absence of capable guardian) will remain status quo.
Metaphors or Myths	Cat-and-mouse chase.

Table 2 shows the Business-as-Usual Scenario in which the emerging trends will continue to persist while the actions of the capable guardian will remain the same. The primary narrative of this scenario is “cat-and-mouse chase,” to which the motivated offender will continue doing their criminal activities while the capable guardian will remain on doing their jobs with a lack of resources, lack of funds, and

limited innovations to catch up with the offenders. Thus, it makes it an endless cycle of catching and chasing criminals with limited proactive solutions. This is caused by the lack of funds, deficient human and material resources, an insufficient database and data management systems, and deficient community participation.

*Table 3. Preferred Scenario*

Layer	Description
Litany	Multi-disciplinary collaboration in research, extension, and capacity building; sufficient and streamlined resources, funds, and manpower; the Province will be disaster resilient; there will be no rape and incest cases; victims will come forward to report crimes committed against them; the Province of Marinduque being the most peaceful country in the Philippines; Maritime Laws will be fully implemented; water resources will be protected; victims of mining disaster will be compensated; community will be the prime movers and initiators of peace and order activities
Systems	Trust in government, law enforcement agencies, and the police; support from the national government; capacity-building initiatives and activities for the community; cultural and paradigm shift; efficient data and knowledge management
Worldview	Suitable Targets will be removed from the Routine Activity Triad due to their community participation in safety and security initiatives; Absence of capable guardians will also be removed from the Routine Activity Triad due to their enhanced presence, improved resources, utilization of new technology, and enhanced capability of the police; town and gown localized SDG.
Metaphors or Myths	The police are the public, and the public are the police.

Table 3 shows the Preferred Scenario in which the ideal future, based on the emerging

trends, will flourish in the future. The main narrative of this scenario is that “the police are the

public and the public are the police,” in which the gained trust of the law enforcers from the community will be the primary building blocks of the peace and order of the province. This scenario is based on the current efforts of the law enforcement agencies and the academe on mitigating and preventing crimes; thus, if these trends continue to grow, the preferred scenario will prosper. The participant of the study envisions that the Province of Marinduque will be the most peaceful in the Philippines, sexual abuse cases such as rape and incest will go down to zero. The funds and resources will be streamlined and efficiently administered to and by each department. The thrust is towards a multi-sectoral and multidisciplinary peace and order mechanism through continuous efforts among law enforcement agencies and the community. At the same time, the academe will serve as a bridge between the two entities. The communities will be empowered for their safety and trust the law enforcement agencies and police in reporting and giving information regarding crimes. This will be possible through trust in government, law enforcement agencies,

and the police, support from government agencies, capacity-building initiatives, cultural and paradigm shift, and efficient data and knowledge management.

These findings can support the Philippine National Police Patrol Plan 2030 – Peace and Order Agenda for Transformation and Upholding the Rule of Law, which aims to improve the police effectiveness, credibility, and capability by focusing on crime prevention, law enforcement, and community engagement. Its key policies include the Performance Governance System Framework, Multi-Sectoral Governance Council, Community Oriented Policing, and Institutionalization of Police Strategy Management.

Thus, in this scenario, the Philippine National Police can integrate academe-led initiatives into the Multi-Sectoral Governance Council through research and extension; enhancement of community policing programs to improve trust and crime reporting, also to develop a localized strategic roadmap for the Province under the PGS Framework.

Table 4. Disowned Scenario

Layer	Description
Litany	The Province will be a hub for Sex Tourism; the Province will be infiltrated by insurgents and lawless forces; drug trafficking; the marine resources will be exploited by neighbouring cities and provinces; continuous destruction of the environment; nonattainment of environmental justice; sexual abuse cases will be predominant and victims will not be able to seek justice; dissonance among state actors, the academe, and stakeholders; distrust with the police.
Systems	Distrust of the government, law enforcement, and police; corruption; lack of education; not embracing innovation and changes
Worldview	Motivated offenders will adapt and advance methods of operation; Motivated offenders will capitalize on the use of technology; suitable targets will persist in victimization.
Metaphors or Myths	The inaction in the present creates a dystopian future.

Table 4 shows the Disowned Scenario wherein, if the trends and emerging issues are not contained or mitigated, the scenarios presented are the foreseeable future. Metaphorically, “inaction in the present creates a dystopian future”; hence the if the law enforcement agencies, the police, and the community will not address the current trends and issues, the

Province of Marinduque will suffer from growing safety and security threats such as sex tourism, insurgency, drug trafficking, maritime disputes, environmental crimes, and high crime rate. These will be caused by the community’s distrust of the government, corruption, and failure to adapt to the current societal changes. Moreover, in this scenario, the failure of the law

enforcement agencies to coordinate and collaborate, and the academe to share knowledge and research, will also result in difficulty in solving crimes. On the contrary, motivated offenders will develop more skills and exploit technology and innovation in the commission of crimes. With these, this may result in more vulnerability among suitable targets.

## Conclusion

Our action or inaction will determine our future. Futures thinking is not fortune telling; rather, it is a methodical process through which the emerging social issues and trends are critically analysed to be used by policymakers in crafting plans and programs. The Marinduque 2050 Safety and Security Scenario is volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous. However, in this study, it is mapped that the five key points of the safety and security scenario of the province are (1) Environmental Protection, (2) Maritime Law Enforcement, (3) Disaster Resilience, (4) Sexual Abuse, and (5) Community Participation. It can be further analysed that the futures of safety and security, policing, and law enforcement can be classified into Business-as-Usual Scenario, Preferred Scenario, and Disowned Scenario.

Business As Usual Scenario will be a cycle of catching and imprisoning offenders thus, cat-and-mouse; Preferred Scenario will see a police officer that the community trust, thus attaining peace and order; and Disowned Scenario will be the dystopia of a once peaceful Province wherein there is dysfunction and dissonance with the relationship among the law enforcement, community, and stakeholders.

Therefore, the Marinduque 2050 safety and security, policing, and law enforcement affect the elements of the Routine Activity Theory - motivated offender, suitable targets, and absence of capable guardians across all scenario archetypes. Ensuring an active collaboration among the stakeholders through a town and gown approach is also necessary in promoting the overall safety and the future security in Marinduque.

## Recommendation

**Environmental Protection.** Pointing on to the irreversible damages caused by the

MARCOPPER mining incident and its claim for environmental justice, (1) there is a need for the government and the community altogether to come up with baseline data through a research to establish the actual amount of financial damages including future losses this has brought the entirety of Marinduque; (2) tireless and persistent efforts to seek the environmental justice must not be foregone as well; and (3) together with a more conscious effort to rehabilitate the affected area including its people who were greatly affected.

**Maritime Law Enforcement.** Marinduque despite an island province that maintains its pristine culture and peaceful nature remains to be vulnerable to but not limited to threats when it comes to recruitment of local terrorist groups through students, entry of illegal items coming from its Ports and even in other points of possible entry to the province, while few sightings of disputes involving commercial fishing and the use of illegal fishing methods are also noted, thus, (1) the government should take proactive and intensified measures to counter all possible future dilemma it may bring by making sure that all laws pertaining to such problems are fully implemented and carefully monitored; (2) information, education, and communication (IEC) materials are also supplemental measures that would aid in possibly addressing the issues on high prices of local seafood prices stemming from the local culture known as "padawas", a practice commonly involving folks paying a lesser amount to fishers out of the implied goodwill and friendly relations among the local residents in the area which pushes these fishers to sell their catch elsewhere resulting to higher prices; and (3) it is also high time for the government to consider a more efficient way of budgeting and resource generation to catch up with the future demands for purchasing aquatic resources, floating assets, and personnel development among others in order to provide better services in the future given the actual and real danger posed in the aspect of maritime disputes and law enforcement.

**Disaster Resilience.** Strengthening community participation through voluntary work and mobilization can be a stepping stone in community engagement. Further, a centralized

information system specifically designed for the island province of Marinduque should be developed. Investing in an updated hazard map can contribute to disaster preparedness and mitigation. Updating the hazard-prone areas to hydrometeorological hazards. Concerning the adverse effects of the MARCOPPER tailings, it is recommended to have hazard mapping on the dikes, rivers, and infrastructures to assess their safety. In terms of safety culture is a reasonably stable concept that is steadily changed over time by many influences which including societal norms, values, and presumptions (Bisby et al., 2021).

**Sexual Abuse Cases.** Behind the peaceful state of the island province, unreported cases of child rape, incest, and prostitution is the current and foreseen threat in the safety and security of the province. To address this problem in the context of the province, baseline data needs to be established, which includes criminal profiling, case profiling, and research investigation on the contributory factors of the commission of crime. Victims of support programs must be established by the police, prosecution, civil society organizations, and community to encourage victims to come forward and report the incidents and pursue in filing of cases. Hence, investigate the factors why victims are not pursuing the case in a judicial court and make necessary interventions. Further, a study on the structural make of the house is recommended by the participants since, according to the MACEC, the victims who came for their help were victimized inside their house.

**Community Participation.** Community members are perceived as the major resource needed for crime prevention (Arisukwu et al., 2020). However, community participation is a two-way street; for communities to participate, police and the government must gain the trust of the public and work together. We, in the academic community, are the bridge between them. In the analysis of the gathered data, the following are recommended: (1) to utilize technology in information-dissemination, (2) to capacity building of the community through workshops, youth camps engagements, and (3) to keep the community engaged in policy making, implementation, and monitoring. It is the sense of ownership of the community that they

will feel that they are part of the system. A system that they structured, and a system that works for them.

## Acknowledgement

This paper humbly appreciates the time and dedication made by our focus group discussion participants through the Marinduque Futures Lab Research Centre, because without their brilliant insights and openness to answer the questions during the discussion that shed light on the important aspects of Marinduque Safety and Security Futures 2050; this paper would not have been born.

## References

- Ashari, N. M., & Farouk, A. F. A. (2022). Exploring barriers and pathways towards Sarawak 2030 skills condition: A causal layered analysis. *Futures*, 145, 103079. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.futures.2022.103079>
- Arisukwu, O., Igbolekwu, C., Oye, J., Oyeyipo, E., Asamu, F., Rasak, B., & Oyekola, I. (2020). Community participation in crime prevention and control in rural Nigeria. *Heliyon*, 6(9), e05015. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2020.e05015>
- Bisbey, T. M., Kilcullen, M. P., Thomas, E. J., Ottosen, M. J., Tsao, K., & Salas, E. (2021). Safety culture: An integration of existing models and a framework for understanding its development. *Human factors*, 63(1), 88-110.
- Eklblom, P. (2022). Facing the future: The role of horizon-scanning in helping security keep up with the changes to come. *The Handbook of Security*, 821-845.
- Etikan, I. (2016). Comparison of convenience sampling and purposive sampling. *American Journal of Theoretical and Applied Statistics*, 5(1), 1. <https://doi.org/10.11648/j.ajtas.2016050111>
- Futures: How to apply Crime Science theories and perspectives. (2023, March 6). CRIME FRAMEWORKS. <https://crimeframeworks.com/futures-how-to-apply-crime-science-theories-perspectives/>



- Groff, E. R. (2007). Simulation for theory testing and experimentation: An example using routine activity theory and street robbery. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 23, 75-103.
- Inayatullah, S. (1998). Causal layered analysis. *Futures*, 30(8), 815-829. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0016-3287\(98\)00086-x](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0016-3287(98)00086-x)
- Inayatullah, S. (2004). The causal layered analysis (CLA) reader. *Theory and case studies of an integrative and transformative methodology*, 1, 1-52.
- Inzunza, M. (2022). The significance of victim ideality in interactions between crime victims and police officers. *International Journal of Law, Crime and Justice*, 68, 100522. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijlcrj.2021.100522>
- Modern policing means a principled understanding of enforcement. (2023, March 14). *Michigan State Police Newsroom*. <https://www.michigan.gov/mspnewsroom/our-stories/2023/03/14/modern-policing-means-principled-understanding-of-enforcement>
- Scott, J., & Staines, Z. (2020). Charting the place of islands in criminology: On isolation, integration and insularity. *Theoretical Criminology*, 25(4), 578-600. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1362480620910250>
- Voros, J. (2003). A generic foresight process framework. *Foresight*, 5(3), 10-21. <https://doi.org/10.1108/14636680310698379>
- Wong, L. P. (2008). Focus group discussion: a tool for health and medical research. *Singapore Med J*, 49(3), 256-60.