



## **AIM RSN Policy Center to re-examine fear of crime in the Philippines**

The Asian Institute of Management Rizalino S. Navarro Policy Center for Competitiveness (AIM RSN PCC) will conduct a forum entitled *Reassessing our Fear of Crime: Determinants and Impact* on 20 October 2016, at the Makati Diamond Residences, Makati City.

The Center will present its findings from a recent survey on the collective Filipino sentiment on crime and security. "We want to engage stakeholders in business, government, civil society, and the academe on the practical implications of the fear of crime," says AIM RSN PCC Economist Emmanuel Garcia. "This forum is for those concerned with the promotion of peace and order, and the implementation of policies and programs that target security."

The AIM RSN PCC's study included a survey of 1,200 households in the 16 cities and one municipality of Metro Manila. Face-to-face interviews were conducted in the first two weeks of August this year.

The study looked into two measures of the fear of crime as explored in the literature of international criminology. Affective fear of crime measures people's emotional aversion to criminal acts in general, while cognitive fear gauges the perceived risk of being victimized. Survey results showed that 65 percent of respondents are unsure of their safety from crime in Metro Manila, with 70 percent being afraid to walk alone in the streets at night. Many Filipinos don't even feel safe in their own neighborhoods, with 31 percent uncertain about their safety and 36 percent afraid to brave the streets after dark.

Respondents were also asked to gauge the likelihood of falling victim to pickpocketing, burglary, vehicle theft, rape, and physical violence. One in three respondents fears pickpocketing and burglary, while one in five fears vehicle theft, rape, and physical violence.

The Center then examined the determinants of the fear of crime, including an insecurity scale that captures insecurities faced by citizens in their daily lives, particularly insecurities about financial stability, employment, educational opportunities, health maintenance, sanitation and environment, disaster preparedness, and human rights protection. AIM RSN PCC found the insecurity scale to be a very strong predictor of both affective and cognitive fear of crime. Similar to findings in other countries, Metro Manila residents' fear of crime is significantly rooted in economic, social, and political insecurities. Specifically, respondents who were insecure about their financial stability, employment, environment, and disaster-preparedness were more likely to be afraid of falling victim to crime than those who did not have such insecurities.



Other reliable predictors of fear include past victimization, city of residence, community concerns, and socio-demographic characteristics like age and gender. Household income did not appear to be significant, but being employed did appear to reduce fear. Overall, no other factor predicted fear of crime as strongly as the insecurities.

AIM RSN PCC Executive Director Dr. Jamil Paolo Francisco notes that, “Our findings show there is more to the fear of crime than meets the eye. This fear is rooted in economic, social, and political insecurities. “In fact, survey respondents identify job creation at 46 percent as more of a government priority than anti-crime and anti-drug action at 30 percent.”

“Overall, the results of the study can help align policy-making and program implementation in both the public and private sectors with the needs and concerns of citizens on the ground.”

The study was motivated by President Rodrigo Duterte's campaign against criminality that has garnered wide support from the public, as well as by the National Economic Development Authority's AmBisyon 2040 program, which envisions all Filipinos having access to a life that is “stable, comfortable, and peaceful”. The objectives of the study also tie in with the AIM RSN PCC's thrust of evaluating the drivers of shared prosperity in the Philippines.