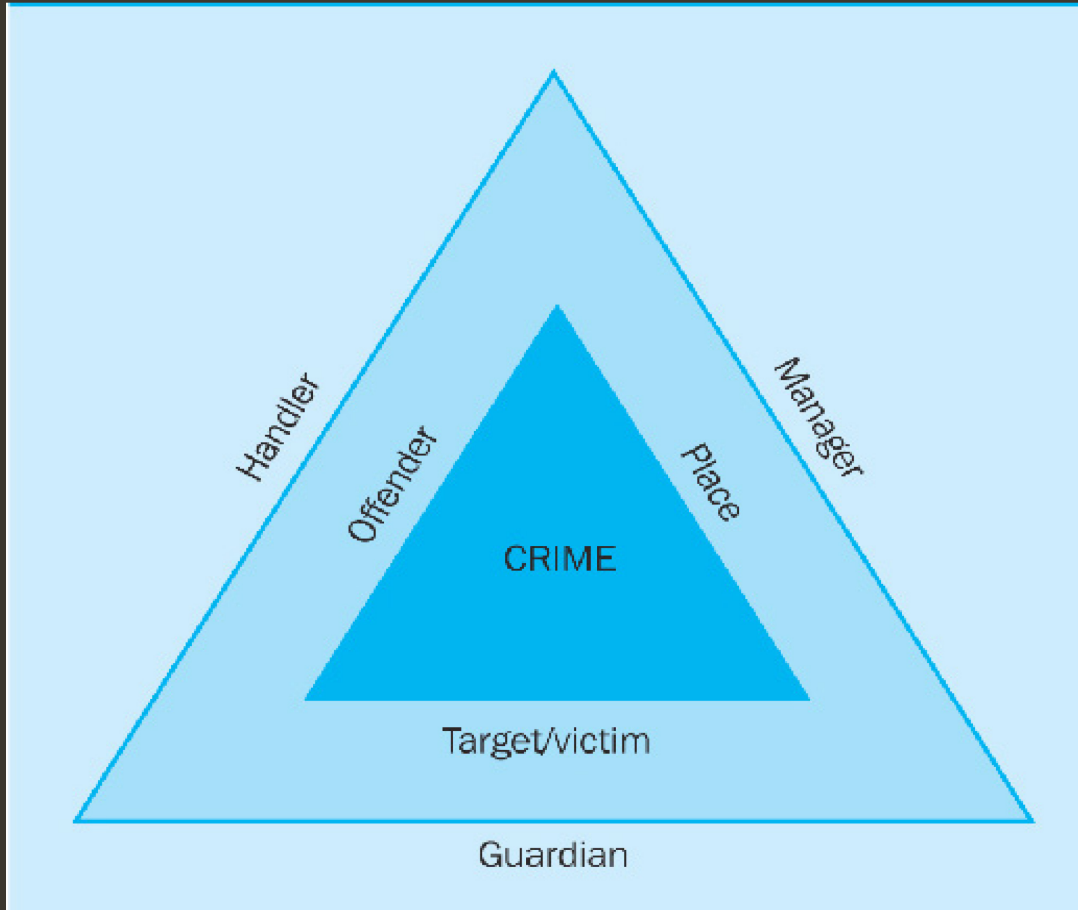# Securing the urban space: on whose terms? Prospects and challenges

University of Ghana

Conceptual underpinnings

The crime triangle

- there must be an object or victim that offers a criminal some level of pay-off for committing a crime;

- a place must exist where a crime can occur in which it is reasonable for a criminal to assume that they will not be apprehended;

- there must be a criminal motivated to commit a crime

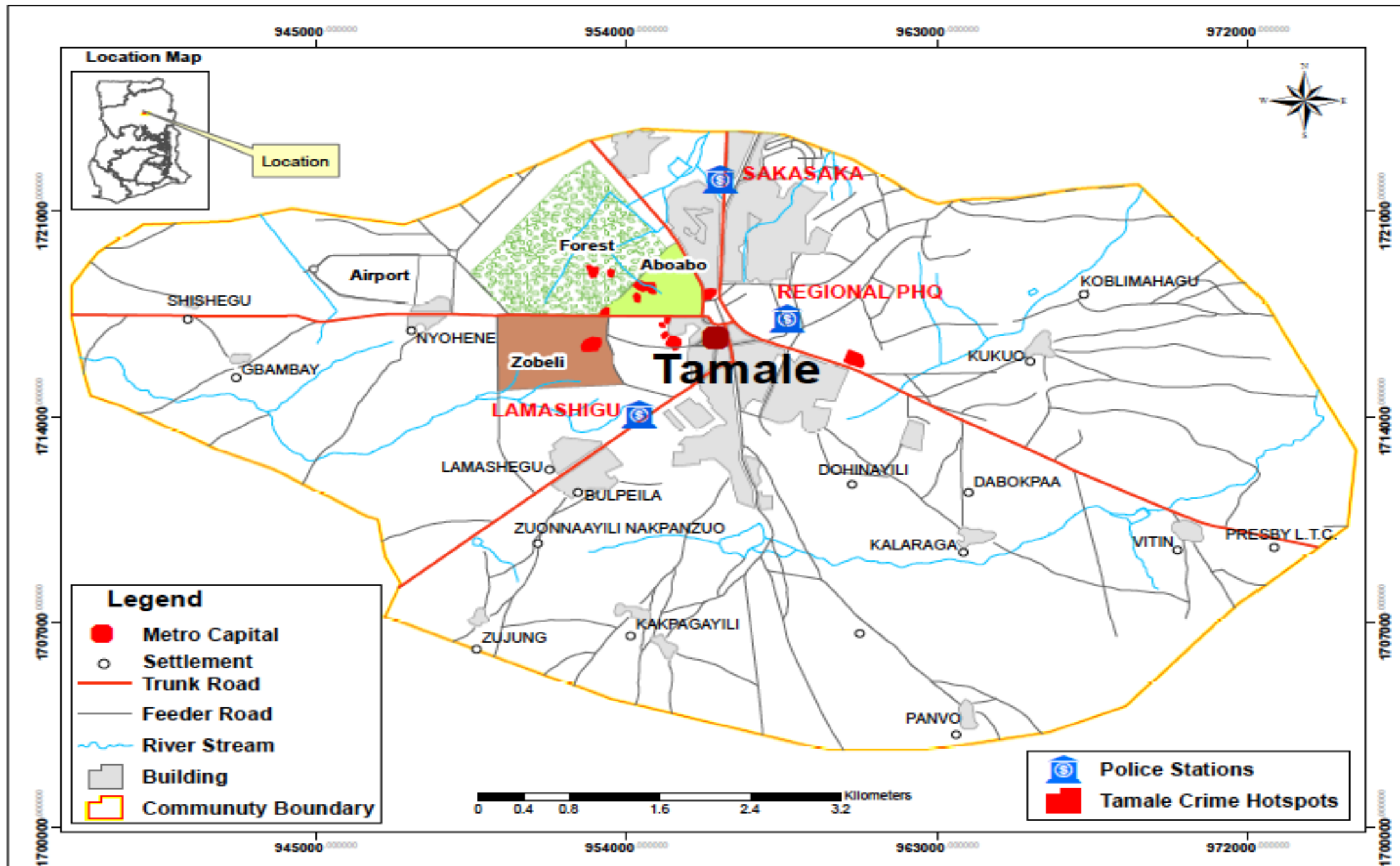# Police has constitutional mandate for internal security

- **organized at national level,**

- **has a unitary command under IGP**

- **there are many regional and divisional, district commands,**

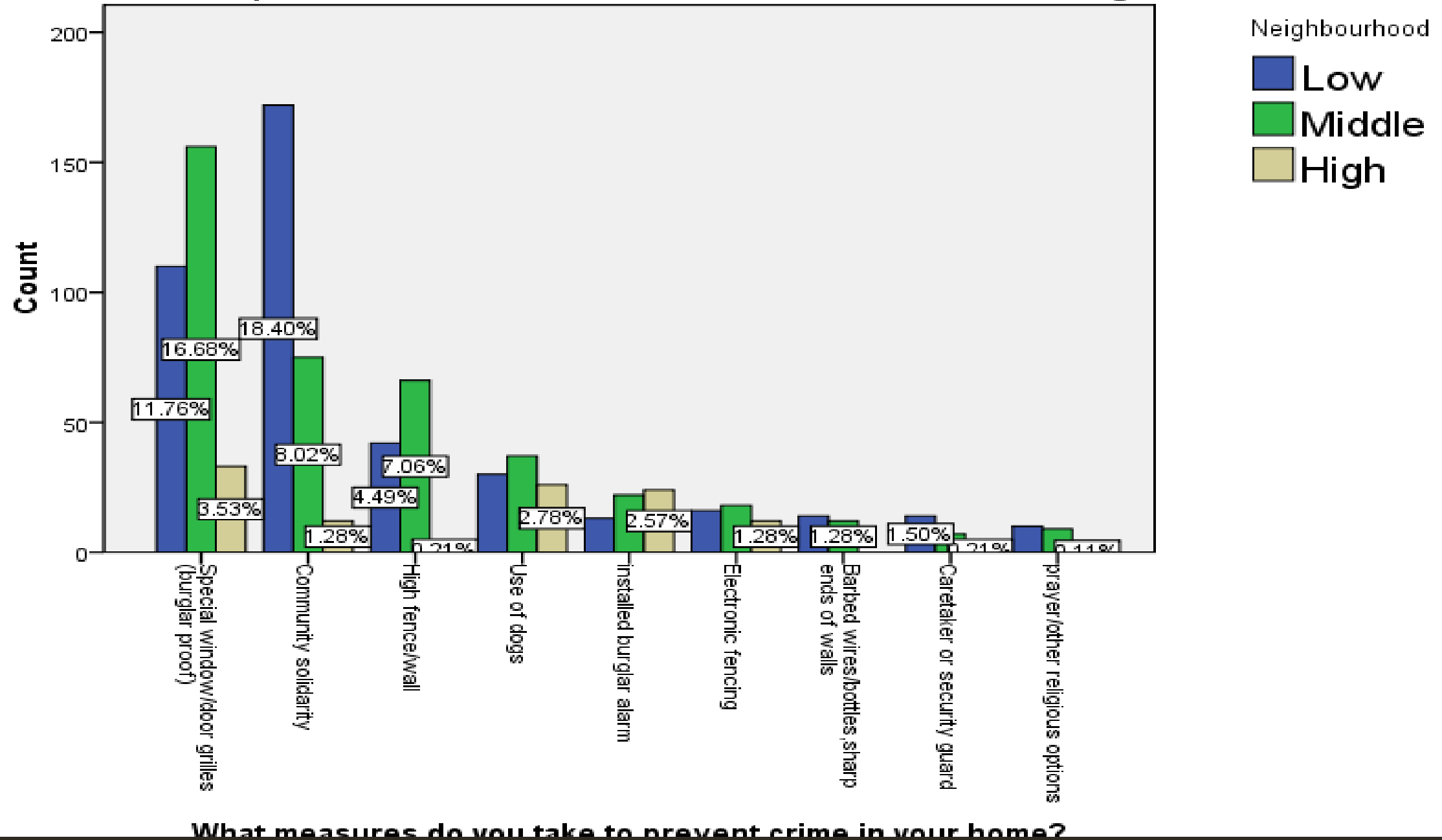- **all report to the national headquarters in Accra**

Police human capacity in the four research localities

CITY	POP '2010	Number of PS	Actual PP'2014	Actual PPR	Expected PP	Deficit in PP	Underserved pop (%)
Accra	2,070,463	35	3096	1:669	4141	1045	25
Kumasi	2,035,064	15	1238	1:1644	4070	2832	70
Sekondi/Takoradi	539,548	10	477	1:1131	1079	602	56
Tamale	371,299	2	235	1:1580	743	508	68

MAP OF TAMALE METROPOLITAN AREA SHOWING CRIME HOTSPORTS LOCATIONS AND POLICE STATIONS

Informal crime prevention method within different socioeconomic neighbourhoods in Ghana

What measures do you take to prevent crime in your home?

Police visibility and accessibility

- ## The rational
  - Being proactive in policing with the aim of deterring crime, instead of the traditional method of detecting crime after it had been committed

Community participation in policing

Community police & watchdog concept

↓

Community informants & agents

↓

Peer counselors

↓

Building on community assets

↓

Use local knowledge and institutional memory

Target hardening

- means making targets more resistant to attack or more difficult to remove or damage
  - fitting better doors, windows,
  - window or door locks, alarms
  - screens in building societies
  - fencing and bard wire systems
  - repairing damaged
  - private security, CCTVs, etc

Looking forward

"We cannot expect that all nations will adopt like systems, for conformity is the jailer of freedom and the enemy of growth" J. F. Kennedy

- **No one size fits all policies**
  - *Low-income areas generally free from heinous crimes but not perpetrators*
  - *Middle-income communities witnessing rapid densification and offer reasonable place for crime*
  - *Affluent areas "blindingly" adopting physical preventive methods*

Looking forward

- **No one size fits all policies**
  - *At the low-income and indigenous communities, increasing social disorganisation not only because of increasing heterogeneity but increasing inequality*
  - *The get-rich-quick tendencies of the youth fast-eroding moral authority of the society*

Looking forward

- **No one size fits all policies**
  - governments and traditional leaders to enable instruments to plan for urban growth, avoid urban sprawl, and prevent new settlements in risk-prone areas
  - integrated territorial development and urban-rural linkages in the urban development

Acknowledgement

Thank you