

HISTORY OF ILOCOS SUR

Ilocos Sur was once a part of the old province of Ilocos, which included all of the Ilocos provinces (now) and part of the mountain country, but due to the rapid increase in population, it was deemed necessary to divide this region into two provinces; namely, Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur. The division was made in 1818 and the capital of the new province was Vigan.

Vigan is named after a plant growing abundantly around the region of the town. It is said that when the Spaniards asked the name of the Ilocano settlement, the natives answered "Biga," the name of the plant grow grew in the place. Captain Juan de Salcedo in his conquest of the Ilocos Region founded the Spanish city of Fernandina in the heart of the ancient and prosperous Ilocano settlement of Vigan. However, the name of Fernandina was later discarded and the town finally became known as "Vigan."

Ilocos Sur embraces within its limits some of the oldest towns in the Philippines. Besides ancient Vigan, several towns already existed in this region before the close of the sixteenth century namely Santa, Bantay, Narvacan, Candon and Sinait.

In the revolutionary history of the province, only two uprisings stand out prominently. These uprisings were the Malong rebellion of 1660 and the Silang rebellion of 1763. Diego Silang who led the rebellion in 1763 dominated the greater part of Ilocos Sur. He fought pitched battles with the Spanish forces at Vigan and Cabugao and practically succeeded in establishing a government of his own in Ilocos Sur.

Ilocos Sur, a typhoon-swept region, is the narrowest of all the Ilocano provinces. It is located between Ilocos Norte and La Union. It has a reefy coast so that there are only a few places that offer safe shelter for vessels. Pandan is the principal port.

The harbor of Salomague to the north is a sheltered port but it is only sought for during typhoons. Another port is the little but sheltered port of San Esteban. It is a lumber port and before the outbreak of the war it was an unloading point for the sugar produce of the Candon Sugar Central.

The mountains of Ilocos Sur are almost bare of timber so that the rainfall is scanty and the land is sandy. Rice is produced. The yearly harvest, however, is not enough to meet the needs of the province so that the much needed cereal has to be imported from Pangasinan and Cagayan. The land is adapted to the growth of maguey, a fiber which two decades ago was the principal source of wealth and export. Coconuts are grown in large individual patches in Candon and in the towns around Candon.

Because the soil cannot support the people, a great number of its inhabitants turn to other industries. Those along the coast extract salt from the sea water and export it in great quantities to the inland provinces, notably Mt. Province. In San Esteban, there is a quarry of stone from which mortars and grindstones are made. San Vicente, San Idefonso and Vigan specialize in woodworking; the first in carved wooden boxes and images and the others in household furniture. Most of the wood used in these handicrafts are imported from Abra and Cagayan. Bantay is the home of silversmiths. In the other towns saddles, harness, slippers, mats, pottery and hats are made and exported to some extent. Santa makes bolos which are exported to Pangasinan. Candon on the coast exports great quantities of coconuts to Ilocos Norte. Sisal and hemp fiber extraction and weaving of cotton cloth are common household industries throughout the province.

Most of the people are Ilocanos but there are also some Tinguianes, Igorots, and Negritos living on the slopes

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Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

LIST OF MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS ELECT
NOVEMBER 11, 1947 ELECTIONS
PROVINCE OF CAMARINES NORTE
BASUD

Mayor— — — Floro A. Quiñones (L)

Vice-Mayor — Pedro Avida (L)

Councillors:

1. Marcelo Laviste (N)
2. Eduardo Sacris (N)
3. Bernardino Zabala (L)
4. Timoteo Carillo (L)
5. Loreto Nolo (L)
6. David S. Sarion (L)

CAPALONGA

Mayor— — — Lucio Jacob (L)

Vice-Mayor — Juan Orit (L)

Councillors:

1. Hermenigildo Alto (L)
2. Francisco Talento (L)
3. Juan Juego 2nd. (N)
4. Pio Vega (L)
5. Pedro Juego 3rd. (L)
6. Pablo Sarmiento (L)

DAET

Mayor— — Enrique Magana de Leon (N)

Vice-Mayor— Moise Gaité (N)

Councillors:

1. Sotero Macaro (N)
2. Ricardo Cañeba (N)
3. Epifanio Ferrer (N)
4. Irineo Sacriz (N)
6. Manuel B. Fuentebella (N)
7. Pedro M. Edora (L)
8. Nazario Laguman (N)

J. PANGANIBAN

Mayor— — — Jose Y. Arriola (N)

Vice-Mayor — Rudy Juguilon (L)

Councillors:

1. Monica E. Agua (N)
2. Rogelio Manalo (L)
3. Pedro D. Escio (L)
4. Macario Opeda (N)
5. Amadeo Evia (N)
6. Roman Blancas (N)
7. Damian Natino (L) (Passed away,
post vacante)
8. Crecenciano Martinez (L)

LABO

Mayor— — — Gil Cambronero (L)

Vice-Mayor — Pablo Dizon (N)

Councillors:

1. Domingo Villafuerte (N)
2. Mariano Elep (N)
3. Julian Sena (L)
4. Godofredo V. Pandi (N)
5. Agapito Deriz (N)
6. Cayo Ubaña (N)

PARACALE

Mayor— — — Pedro M. Tagala (N)

Vice-Mayor — Domingo Undazan (L)

Councillors:

1. Luis Dasco (N)
2. Sesinando Can (L)
3. Jose Venida (L)
4. Sergio Deauna (Independent)
5. Jesus Calayan (N)
6. Mateo Era (L)
7. Jose Abcede (L)
8. Fidel Calajate (L)

(To be continued)

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of the Cordillera. At present there are still 9,537 members of non-Christian tribes. The population of the province except three towns which have not been heard from yet is 267,943.

Ilocos Sur is the center of the Diocese of Nueva Segovia. Vigan is also the religious, educational and commercial center of the north.

Ilocos Sur has produced many leaders in its history. The most notable figure is the President of the Philippines, the Hon. Elpidio Quirino, who was born in Vigan; Father Jose Burgos; and Isabelo de los Reyes. Present big figures are Senator Prospero Sanidad of Narvacan, Representative Floro Crisologo, Representative Fidel Villanueva, Governor Perfecto Faypon, Board Members Anselmo Makil and Pablo Sanidad, Atty. Cecilio Balbin, Atty. Eloy Bello and many others. Despite the political squabbles in the province, all are wholeheartedly behind the leadership of President Quirino, Nacionalistas and Liberals alike.—The "Interscholastic," Jan., Feb., 1949,

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