

Chapter I. General Information

BRIEF HISTORY OF CAVITE

Colonizers arriving in the late 16th century saw an unusual tongue of land thrust into Manila Bay and saw its value as the main staging ground from where they could launch their bulky galleons. Formed in the shape of a hook, which in Tagalog is called kawit, it became the most important port linking the colony to the outside world.

What is now Cavite City was once a mooring place for Chinese junks trading that came to trade with the settlements around Manila Bay. In 1571, Spanish colonizers founded the port and city of Cavite and fortified the settlement as a first line of defense for the city of Manila. Galleons were built and fitted at the port and many Chinese merchants settled in the communities of Bacoor and Kawit, opposite the Spanish city to trade silks, porcelain and other Oriental goods. The vibrant mix of traders, Spanish seamen and local residents gave rise to the use of pidgin Spanish called chabacano.

In 1614, the politico-military jurisdiction of Cavite was established covering all the present territory except for the town of Maragondon, which used to belong to the corregimiento of Mariveles. Maragondon was ceded to Cavite in 1754. Within Maragondon was a settlement established in 1663 for Christian exiles from Ternate, Mollucas.

Owing to its military importance, Cavite was attacked by foreigners in their quest to conquer Manila and the Philippines. The Dutch made a surprise attack on the city in 1647, founding the port

incessantly, but were repulsed. In 1672, the British occupied the port during their two-year interregnum in the Philippines. American forces attacked the Spanish squadron in Cavite. The Spanish defeat marked the end of Spanish rule in the country.

Missionary orders acquired and enlarged vast haciendas in Cavite during the 18th and 19th century. These haciendas became the source of bitter agrarian conflicts between the friar orders and Filipino farmers and pushed a number of Caviteños to live as outlaws. This opposition to the friar orders was an important factor that drove many Cavite residents to support reform, and later, independence.

In 1872, a mutiny by disgruntled navy men in Cavite led to a large-scale crackdown on reformers and liberals. Three Filipino priests – Jose Burgos, Mariano Gomez and Jacinto Zamora- were executed and dozens others sent into exile. In 1896, after the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution, Cavite took center stage as thousands of Katipuneros liberated most of the province's towns.

On August 26, 1896, when the Philippine revolution against Spain broke out, Cavite became a bloody theatre war. Led by Emilio Aguinaldo, Caviteños made surprise attacks on the Spanish headquarters and soon liberated the whole province.

Emilio Aguinaldo, the first Philippine president came from the town of Kawit and directed the conduct of the Revolution from his base in the province. He agreed to go into exile in December 1897, but returned to the Philippines in May 1898. On June 12, he declared Philippine independence from the balcony of his home in Kawit.

The Americans established civil government in the province in 1901. The naval station in Sangley Point became the chief American naval base in the country. During the World War II, the Japanese targeted the naval base during the first wave of attacks on military installations in the Philippines.

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Proclamation of Philippine Independence in Kawit, Cavite on June 12, 1898.

HISTORY OF CAVITE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

The provincial government of Cavite has a colorful history. During the greater part of the Spanish regime the provincial administration was handled by the *alcalde mayor* who was the representative of the governor and captain general in Manila. As *alter ego* of the Chief executive of the country, the *alcalde mayor* exercised over all executive, judicial, and legislative functions within his jurisdiction. He was in fact a petty captain general because he held under his orders the armed forces of the province for purposes of defense and maintenance of peace and order. By the Decree of June 25, 1847 the title of *alcalde mayor* in Cavite was changed to politico-military governor. He was also tripped of judicial functions.

The last Spanish politico-military governor of Cavite, with headquarters in the *cabecera* of Cavite (now Cavite City), was Col. Fernando Pargas whom Emilio Aguinaldo, as captain municipal of *Cavite el Viejo* (now Kawit), saw on the morning of August 31, 1896 to ask for a detachment of soldiers to protect his town from bandits. Aguinaldo's plan was to ambush the government troops on their way to Kawit and seize their arms which his Magdalo followers needed urgently to start the armed uprising against Spain.

While waiting for his turn to talk to Pargas in his office, Aguinaldo learned that only one company of soldiers was left in Cavite as all available infantry men had been sent to Manila upon urgent summons from Governor and Captain General Ramon Blanco, who had placed eight Luzon provinces (Manila, Bulacan, Pampanga, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Laguna, Batangas and Cavite) under martial law following the discovery of the Katipunan secret society.

With this valuable information, Aguinaldo returned post-haste to Kawit and with the help of two councilmen, Candido Tria Tirona and Santiago Daño, led the assault and capture of the town's *tribunal* (municipal building). Earlier that day the towns of San Francisco de Malabon (now General Trias) and Noveleta had risen in arms and taken over the control of the local government. It was this cry of Cavite on August 31, 1896, that signalled the beginning of the revolution. This soon spilled over to nearby provinces until it engulfed the entire country.

Spanish sovereignty in the Philippines was overthrown by revolutionists led by Aguinaldo. Historical documents show that during the revolutionary regime, Cavite had three politico-military governors: Mariano Trias, Emiliano Riego de Dios and Ladislao Diwa.

The revolutionary regime was succeeded by the American regime. Cavite had nine provincial governors from the start of the American regime until the establishment of the Commonwealth government in 1935. These governors were Mariano Trias (1901-1905); Louis J. Van Schaick (1906-1907); Leonardo R. Osorio (1908-1909); Tomas Mascardo (1910-1912); Antero S. Soriano (1912-1919); Luis O. Ferrer, Sr.; (1919-1921); Raymundo Jeciel 1922-1925); Fabian Pugeda (1925-1931) and Pedro F. Espiritu (1931-1934).

The Commonwealth regime lasted from 1935 to 1946. It was interrupted by the Pacific war and the subsequent Japanese occupation of the country. Three governors served during the first phase: Ramon Samonte (1935-1939); Emilio P. Virata, acting governor (1939), and Luis Y. Ferrer, Jr. (1940-1944). Ferrer was succeeded by Mariano N. Castañeda from May to November 1944.

The Japanese-sponsored Second Republic under Dr. Jose P. Laurel was proclaimed in October 1943. Dominador M. Camerino was appointed governor from December 1944 to the early part of February 1945. On February 13, Castañeda was recalled as governor by the commander of the advancing Allied forces.

The Commonwealth government was re-established towards the end of February 1945 with Rafael F. Trias as the governor. He served for only a few months after he was succeeded by Francisco T. Arca.

The Third republic was established on July 4, 1946 by virtue of the Tydings-McDuffie Act. Manuel Roxas, the last elected president of the commonwealth, continued as president of the Third Republic. During that time, Dominador Camerino was appointed governor. During the end of his term, Mariano B. Villanueva and Horacio Rodriguez took turn of Camerino's position.

Camerino was elected governor in 1952, but again toward the latter part of his term, he was replaced by Dominador Mangubat who acted as governor from 1954 to 1955. Mangubat was followed by Delfin Montano who was elected governor for four consecutive terms (1956 to 1971). Lino D. Bocalan succeeded him in 1972. He was replaced by Dominador M. Camerino who served as

acting governor from October 1, 1972 until his death on July 24, 1979.



It was Juanito R. Remulla who was appointed as acting governor on September 25, 1979. Under the Third Republic, he was elected governor on January 30, 1980. President Marcos proclaimed the Fourth Republic in 1981 and still, Remulla was in his service as governor until February 19, 1986. Fernando C. Campos succeeded him in

1986 to 1987. Remulla was reelected for a long term (1987-1995). He was succeeded by Epimaco A. Velasco from 1995 to January 1998 and when he was given a position as Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Ramon "Bong" Revilla, Jr. was appointed in place of him. Bong Revilla served from February 2, 1998 to 2001. He was then replaced by Erineo "Ayong" S. Maliksi in 2001. Maliksi served for three consecutive terms (2001 – 2010).

Gov. Juanito Victor "Jonvic" C. Remulla, Jr. took his oath as the new governor of Cavite last June 26, 2010 at Holy Cross Parish in Tanza, Cavite. During the turn-over ceremony last June 30, 2010 held at the Provincial Capitol Building's Ceremonial Hall, Gov. Remulla vows to continue the programs of the last administration and promise to prioritize public service to the Caviteños.

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

Cavite is part of the Philippines' Luzon Peninsula, found in its southern portion. It is bounded by the provinces of Batangas in the south, Laguna in the east, Rizal in the northwest, Metro Manila and Manila Bay in the north, and China Sea in the west. Cavite belongs to Region IV-A or the CALABARZON region. Its proximity to Metro Manila gives the Province significant edge in terms of economic development.

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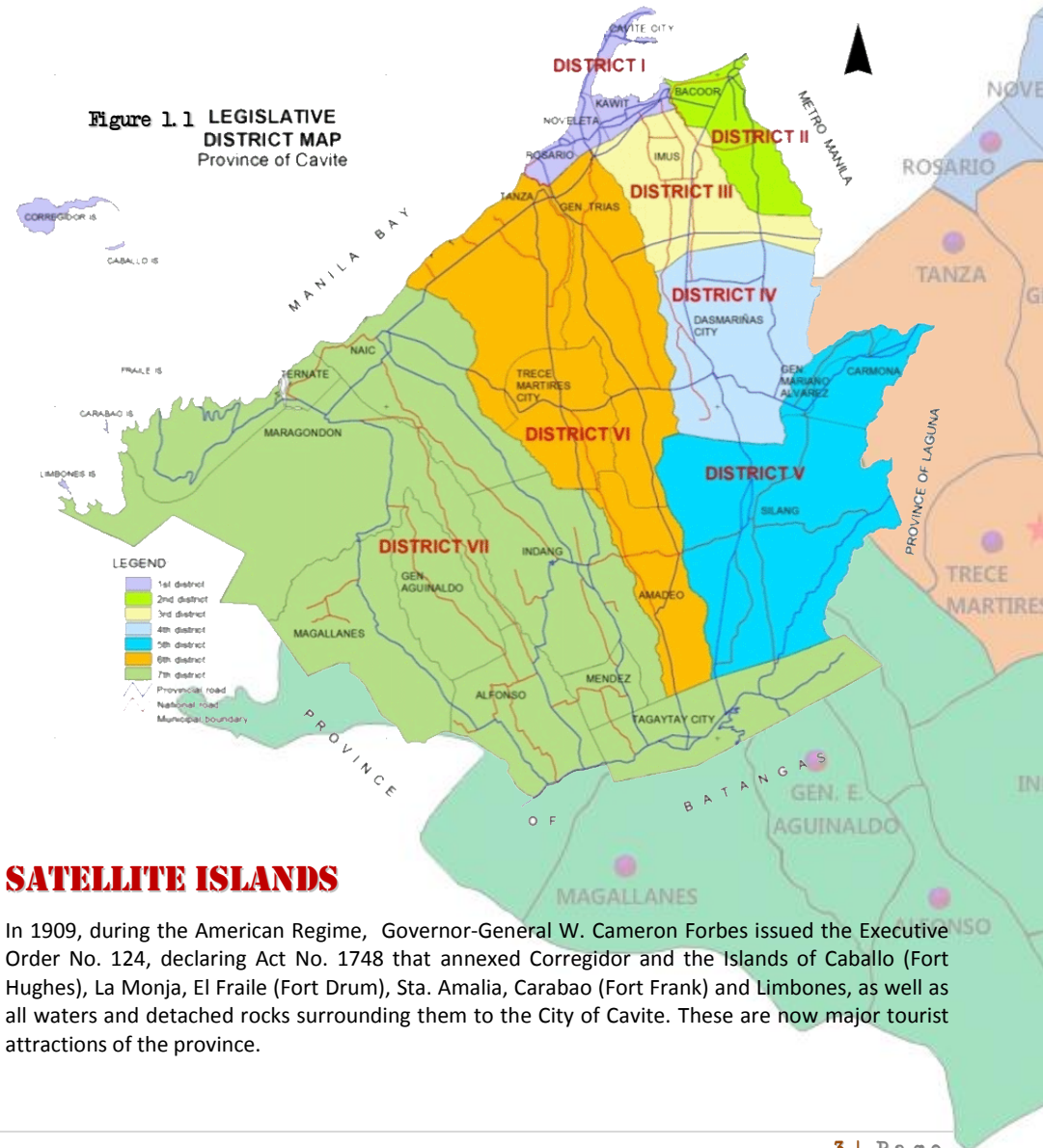


POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

Cavite is a province with established political environment. Just recently, in 2009, by virtue of RA 9727, the province was divided into seven legislative districts. Currently, the Province is composed of 19 municipalities and 4 cities with a total of 829 barangays (Table 1.1). The four cities include the seat of the Provincial Government - Trece Martires City, the defense frontier- Cavite City, the provincial summer capital - Tagaytay City and the newly declared City of Dasmariñas under the Republic Act 9723 which was ratified last November 25, 2009. The City of Dasmariñas also happens to be a lone legislative jurisdiction of District IV.

By virtue of Presidential Decree 1163, Imus is the provincial capital but the seat of the provincial government is located at Trece Martires City (Figure 1.1).

Figure 1.1 LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT MAP
Province of Cavite



SATELLITE ISLANDS

In 1909, during the American Regime, Governor-General W. Cameron Forbes issued the Executive Order No. 124, declaring Act No. 1748 that annexed Corregidor and the Islands of Caballo (Fort Hughes), La Monja, El Fraile (Fort Drum), Sta. Amalia, Carabao (Fort Frank) and Limbones, as well as all waters and detached rocks surrounding them to the City of Cavite. These are now major tourist attractions of the province.



Table 1.1. Number of Barangays by City/ Municipality and Congressional District, Province of Cavite: 2010

| City/Municipality | Number of Barangays |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| District I | |
| Cavite City | 84 |
| Kawit | 23 |
| Noveleta | 16 |
| Rosario | 20 |
| District II | |
| Bacoor | 73 |
| District III | |
| Imus | 97 |
| District IV | |
| City of Dasmariñas | 75 |
| District V | |
| Carmona | 14 |
| Silang | 64 |
| Gen. M. Alvarez | 27 |
| District VI | |
| Trece Martires City | 13 |
| Amadeo | 26 |
| Gen. Trias | 33 |
| Tanza | 41 |
| District VII | |
| Tagaytay City | 34 |
| Alfonso | 32 |
| Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo | 14 |
| Indang | 36 |
| Magallanes | 16 |
| Maragondon | 27 |
| Mendez | 24 |
| Naic | 30 |
| Ternate | 10 |
| TOTAL | 829 |

Source: City/Municipal Profiles, Province of Cavite

CAVITE'S WATER RESOURCES

Major Rivers

The province is being traversed with six major rivers. These are the Maragondon River, Labac River, Cañas River, San Juan River, Bacoor River and Imus River. These rivers are known to have various tributaries passing through the different municipalities of the province.

Water source, especially in the upland areas are abundant due to numerous natural springs, waterfalls and rivers. These have become beneficial among domestic, tourism, and industrial users. These include Balite Spring (Amadeo), Saluysoy Spring (Alfonso), Matang Tubig Spring (Tagaytay City), Malakas Spring (General Aguinaldo), and Ulo Spring (Mendez).

The province is also endowed with waterfalls such as Palsajingin Falls (Indang), Balite Falls (Amadeo), Malibiclibic Falls (Gen. Aguinaldo), Talon-Butas Falls (Gen. Aguinaldo), Saluysoy Falls (Alfonso) and Tala River (Gen. Aguinaldo). Nowadays, these God-given natural wonders are being utilized for recreational and leisure activities like picnics and gatherings (Table 1.2).

Surface Freshwater Resources

Cavite's hydrological network is composed of main rivers and tributaries. These rivers and tributaries generally have a flowing direction from the highlands of Tagaytay City going to Manila Bay with stretches from the Municipality of Bacoor up to Ternate. This is generally in the direction from upland going to the lowland Cavite.

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Ground Water Resources

The natural ground elevation or terrain affects the amount of ground water in an area, not to mention the water extraction demand depending on the kind of industries or number of residences. In the lowland areas covering the towns of Bacoor, Imus, General Trias, Naic, Tanza, Ternate and the City of Dasmariñas, hundreds of artesian wells and deepwells provide water supply for both domestic and irrigation purposes. These have become their major source of water. These have caused the salt water intrusion in the aquifers due to over extraction of water. In a study made by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the groundwater in Cavite is depleting at a rate of 1 meter water level decrease per year. In the upland areas of the province, groundwater is tapped mainly for domestic use through local water supply systems.

Based on the geological studies in Cavite, most of the ground water is stored in the pyroclastic rock reservoir and little in the volcano and clastic rock. Potable water is not reported in the near shore

due to the presence of alluvium deposits which may be brackish and saline and are not safe for drinking and other domestic use. Another source of groundwater is called infiltrated rainfall which serves as the direct source of most near surface aquifers. Inflow from surface water reservoir and irrigation water also contributes to the ground water.

Freely-flowing wells occur in the 30-meter elevation of Southern Tanza and in the lower portions of near shore Naic and Ternate while in the municipality of Imus, it is at the elevation of about 15 meters.

Coastal Resources

Cavite boasts a stretch of about 122.574 kilometers of shoreline. These can be found along Cavite City, Bacoor, Kawit, Noveleta, Rosario, Tanza, Naic, Maragondon, and Ternate. The richness of Cavite's coastal resources paved the way for our recognition as major producer of oysters and mussels. The fisherfolks are also active producers of sugpo/bangus. On the western coastlines lie the breathtaking beaches with pale gray sand. Thus, basically, coastal resource of the province contributes to the economic activities related to fishery and tourism.



Balite Falls at Amadeo, Cavite



A portion of Maragondon River

Table 1.2. Major Rivers, Province of Cavite

| Name of Rivers | Length (km) | Point of Origin | Drainage Location |
|-----------------------|-------------|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Bacoor River | 12.3 | Pintong Gubat, Molino passing Tanzang Luma, Salinas and Panapaan | Bacoor Bay, Bacoor |
| 2. Imus River | 38.4 | North of Tagaytay passing Balite, Sabutan, Biga, Silang, Palapala, City of Dasmariñas, Pasong Bayog, San Agustin and connect to Pasong Bayog passing Salitran, Baluctot, Anabu II & Anabu I going to Tanzang Luma, Palico, Imus down to Salinas and Mabolo, Bacoor toward drainage. Tributaries which started from Bucal going to San Agustin join/connect Imus River in Pasong Bayog. Tributaries found in Baluctot also drain in Imus River. | Bacoor Bay, Bacoor |
| 3a. San Juan River | 39.0 | Maitim, Amadeo passing Maitim, Lalaan I, Silang, Dagatan, Banaybanay, Calubcob, Panungyanan, Javalera, Biclatan, Manggahan, Jaime Baker; Buenavista, Pasong Kawayan, Bacao, Gen. Trias; Sta. Rosa, Noveleta and Putol, Kawit. Tributaries are in Bucandala and Panamitan. | Bacoor Bay Kawit |
| 3b. Alang-Ilang River | | Pasong Camachile River which started from Santiago passing San Gabriel connect with San Juan River San Jose, City of Dasmariñas converging with San Juan River at Bacao, Gen. Trias | |
| 4. Cañas River | 38.9 | From Kaybagal, Tagaytay City passing Loma, Amadeo going to Polanan River, San Agustin, Gregorio, Osorio, Lucbanan, Conchu, Inocencio, Trece Martires City; Alingaro, Gen. Trias passing Lubluban River, Santol, Bucal to Julugan, Tanza. Also from Tagaytay City going to Salaban, Amadeo; Balagbag, Mahabang Kahoy, Limbon, Alulod, Indang and connect to Paradahan, Tanza Other tributaries are found in Buna Lejos, Limbon connecting in Alulod | Manila Bay Julugan, Tanza |
| 5. Labac River | 30.5 | Two contributory rivers located in the upland area Starting from Buna Lejos, Indang passing Buna Cerca to Calumpang River going to Palangue, Naic to Kay-alamang River passing San Roque down to Labac River. Patutong Malaki, Tagaytay City passing Habulin River, Barangays II & III, Mendez going to Kayquit, Indang straight to Banaba Cerca going to Malainen Bago, Naic | Manila Bay |
| 6. Maragondon River | 35.6 | Multi-sources Banaba Lejos passing Pantihan I & II. Tributaries are: Habulin River passing East Tambo to Banaba Lejos From Palocpoc passing Lumampong and Banaba Lejos Magay River to Maragondon River Narvaez River passing Tabora to Maragondon River Matagbak Buruhan River passing Sinaliw na Munti and Sinaliw na Malaki Aliang River in Magallanes starting from Kaytitinga joined Narvaez River passing Tabora Another river (unnamed) from west of Kaytitinga and Aliang River passing Magallanes and joined Tabora to Maragondon River | Manila Bay Ternate |

