

## Chapter 1. General Information

### Brief History of Cavite

Prior to the arrival of the Spaniards in the Philippines, Cavite was already a significant area of interest for foreign merchants and traders. The colonizers arriving in the late 16th century found importance to the unusual tongue of land thrust and deep waters into Manila Bay. They perceived its value to become a main staging ground where they could launch their bulky galleons and later became the most important port linking the colony to the outside world through Manila-Acapulco Galleon Trade. Formed in the shape of a hook, which in Tagalog is called Kawit, it became the most significant port linking the colony to the outside world.

The present location of Cavite City, formerly known as "Tangway", played an important part in trade with the settlements around Manila Bay wherein it was considered the mooring place for Chinese junks. In 1571, Spanish colonizers founded the port in the said area. They also 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 which are opposite the Spanish city to trade silks, porcelain and other Oriental goods.<sup>1</sup> The vibrant mix of traders, Spanish seamen and local residents gave rise to the use of pidgin Spanish called Chabacano.



**The Battle of Imus Monument<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Fish, Shirley (2011). *The Manila-Acapulco Galleons: The Treasure Ships of the Pacific*. AuthorHouse. ISBN 9781456775421.

<sup>2</sup>Battle of Imus is the first victory of Filipinos over Spaniards.

In 1614, the politico-military jurisdiction of Cavite was established. It covers all the present territory of Cavite except for the town of Maragondon, which used to belong to the Corregimiento of Mariveles. Maragondon was ceded to Cavite in 1754 when Bataan province was created from Pampanga province. Within Maragondon was a settlement established in 1663 for Christian exiles from Ternate, Mollucas. In 1660, a settlement within Maragondon was established by exiled Christians brought by the Jesuits from Ternate, Mollucas. This land was named Ternate after their homeland.

During the Spanish time, there is presence of missionary orders, specifically the friars, who played significant roles in the Spanish occupation of the country. These missionary orders acquired 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 that 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 of reformers and liberals. Three Filipino priests – Jose Burgos, Mariano Gomez and Jacinto Zamora- were executed and dozens others were sent into exile. In 1896, after the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution, Cavite took center stage as thousands of Katipuneros liberated in most of the province's towns.

On August 26, 1896, when the Philippine revolution against Spain broke out, Cavite became a bloody war theatre. Led by Emilio Aguinaldo, Caviteños made surprise attacks on the Spanish headquarters and soon liberated the whole province through the Battle of Alapan. 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, 1898, he declared Philippine independence from the balcony of his home in Kawit and proclaimed the First Republic of the Philippines.

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. During the military conflicts and engagements against the Japanese Occupation, the general headquarters of the Philippine Commonwealth Army, active on

Considering that Cavite was a valuable asset due to its military importance, Cavite was attacked by foreigners in their quest to conquer Manila and the Philippines. In 1647, the Dutch unsuccessfully made a surprise attack on the city, pounding the port ceaselessly. Moreover, in 1672, the British occupied the port during their two-year interregnum in the Philippines. American forces attacked the Spanish squadron in Cavite.

January 3, 1942 to June 30, 1946, and the 4<sup>th</sup> Constabulary Regiment of the Philippine Constabulary, active again on October 28, 1944 to June 3, 1946 was stationed in Cavite. Colonel Mariano Castañeda of the Philippine Constabulary, a native from Imus, Cavite, led the resistance against Imperial Japanese occupation in Cavite, notably the Filipino-American Cavite Guerilla Forces (FACGF), in an attempt to recapture Cavite.

For centennial years, Cavite has portrayed an important role in the country's colonial past and eventual fight for independence, gaining the title "Historical Capital of the Philippines". Cavite and its people, what they are today, and what will be tomorrow will remain their infinity as a place with a glorious history, and people fortified with strength to live and die for a worthy cause.

## History of Provincial Government of Cavite



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 Trias 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.

Juanito R. Remulla 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 May 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 on June 26, 2010 at Holy Cross Parish in Tanza, Cavite. During the turn-over ceremony on June 30, 2010 held at the Cavite Provincial Capitol's Ceremonial Hall, Gov. Remulla vows to continue the programs of the last administration and promise to prioritize public service to the Caviteños. His flagship program is to bring the province on a higher ground by making "Cavite: First Class, World Class". Gaining the trust of his constituents during his first term, Gov. Jonvic was re-elected in May 2013 for his second term of office.

In 2016 Election, Gov. Jonvic decided not to run for Office and was substituted by his brother Atty. Jesus Crispin "Boying" C. Remulla, a three-termer Representative of the Province. Governor Boying's administration started in July of 2016 and will last until June of 2019.