

## Chapter 1: History of Cavite

### History of the Province of Cavite

#### The Genesis of Cavite

Before 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 unique tongue of land thrust and deep waters into Manila Bay. They perceived its value to become the 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. Cavite became one of the significant areas of influence during Spanish times.

The present location of Cavite City, formerly known as Tangway, played an essential part in trade with the settlements around Manila Bay, wherein it was considered the mooring place for Chinese junks. In 1571, Spanish colonizers established the port in the said area. They also fortified the settlement as the first line of defense for the city of Manila. Ships were built and fitted at the port. Many Chinese merchants settled in Bacoor and Kawit, opposite the Spanish town, to trade silks, porcelain, and other oriental goods. The vibrant mix of traders, Spanish seamen, and residents gave rise to the use of pidgin Spanish called Chabacano. However, Cavite labor, conscripted through polo or forced labor, bore the brunt of the burden in cutting and hauling timber from the mountains to the shipyards at Cavite el Puerto. Thus, behind each galleon built that gave huge earnings to highly placed Spaniards in Manila was a tale of woes and



*A commemorative statue called "Brother in Arms" and ruins in the Corregidor Island. The statue has an inscribed dedication devoted to the soldiers who fought in the island.*

*Corregidor is the largest island that formed the harbor defenses of Manila Bay, along with El Fraile Island, Caballo Island and Carabao Island. These islands were fortified during the American colonial period. It also served as a small military airfield.*

*During World War II, Corregidor played an important role during the invasion and liberation of the Philippines from the Imperial Japanese Army. It was heavily shelled during the later part of the war, where the ruins serve as a military memorial to American, Filipino and Japanese soldiers that served and lost their lives during the battle.*

*Retrieved from <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:1JVBrotherArms3.jpg>*

sacrifices of Caviteños who welcomed the outbreak of the revolution.

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

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, the British defeated the Spaniards and occupied the port in 1672 during their two-year interregnum in the Philippines. These events sparked an idea to the Caviteños the possibility of overthrowing Spanish rule and be at the forefront of the Philippine Revolution against Spain.

#### The Seedbed of Revolution

The Philippine Revolution, carried by Indios (indigenous people), was the first successful revolution by brown people. Parenthetically, it was a revolution with a distinct Caviteño accent.

Before the revolution outbreak, friars from Spain acquired vast haciendas in Cavite, constituting more than a quarter of total friar land holdings in the Philippines. These haciendas became the source of bitter agrarian conflicts between the friar orders and Filipino farmers, which pushed several Caviteños to live as outlaws. This opposition to the friar orders was an important factor later in the country's independence. Luis Parang led the agrarian revolt of 1828 and Eduardo Camerino in 1869. Parang and Camerino, the notorious bandits in the government's eyes but patriots to their people, were under Father Mariano Gomez's tutelage and became the preliminary groundwork of the Philippine Revolution in Cavite.

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 for alleged complicity in the mutiny of about 200 Filipino soldiers and workers in the Cavite arsenal. It has been described as a "judicial murder ... that shocked the Filipino people in nationhood, as did no other single event in the nineteenth century. Indeed, February 17, 1872, has been called the birthday of the Filipino nation."

Prominent Caviteños were among the casualties of Cavite mutiny in 1872. Most notable were Carlos Aguinaldo, gobernadorcillo of Cavite el Viejo; Mariano Alvarez, founder of the Magdiwang Council of the Katipunan in Cavite; Jose

Basa y Enriquez, a noted lawyer, educator, writer, and reformer; Silvestre Legazpi, general treasurer of the Revolutionary Government; and Emilio Aguinaldo.

The Philippine Revolution started in 1896, where Cavite took center stage as thousands of Katipuneros were liberated in most towns in Cavite. On September 12, 1896, thirteen prominent Caviteños, ten Freemasons, and three Katipuneros were executed by a Spanish firing squad in Fort San Felipe, Cavite, due to the alleged connivance at the uprising. The execution of the 13 influential Caviteños was aimed to halt the spread of upheaval that started in Cavite el Viejo (Kawit), San Francisco de Malabon (the City of Gen. Trias), and Noveleta. Conversely, all municipalities in Cavite took arms. After the battles of Binakayan and Calero on November 9 – 11, 1896, Spanish sovereignty in the province was terminated, except in Cavite Arsenal, the home base of the Spanish Far East Fleet.

The Cavite Mutiny of 1872 was the opening curtain of the fray for Filipino emancipation; however, the execution of the thirteen martyrs rang down the curtain for the Spanish regime in the Philippines.

The most prominent event in the history of the Philippines was the proclamation of Philippine independence on June 12, 1898, in Kawit. General Emilio Aguinaldo, the president of the First Republic of the Philippines, proclaimed independence after a successful revolution by the Filipino people without any foreign aid. Aguinaldo then issued a manifesto on August 6, 1898, under international law to secure the recognition of Philippine independence. He played a prominent and decisive role in the most significant chapter of national history and its legacy as the first successful revolution in Asia.

The Americans established a civil government in the province in 1901. The naval station in Sangley Point became the principal American naval base in the country. As a consequence of the persistent struggles in Cavite between American forces and Filipino rebels, the province became depopulated, leading to ratification of Public Act No. 947 of 1901, reducing the municipalities of Cavite from 22 to nine.

During 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 from January 3, 1942, to June 30, 1946, and the 4th 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 Filipino - American Cavite Guerilla Forces (FACGF) against Imperial Japanese occupation attempting to recapture Cavite. Moreover, Iglesia Filipina Catolica, the first Philippine independent church, was established by Riego de Dios in Maragondon in early 1900.

The Philippines regained independence on July 4, 1946, when America hauled down its flag and the Philippines hoisted its own. The restoration of the Philippine independence was a boundless moral victory to the Filipinos and a great source of dignity to the Caviteños because Aguinaldo, as enunciated by Ferdinand Marcos, "mounded with his hands and watered with his blood the first Republic established by a brown people."

For centennial years, Cavite has portrayed a significant part 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 with their infinity as a place with a glorious history, and people fortified with the strength to live and die for a worthy cause.

## **History of the 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 a petty captain-general because he held the armed forces of the province under his orders 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 a politico-military governor. He was also tripped of judicial functions.

Col. Fernando Pargas was the last Spanish politico-military governor of Cavite. The government was then headquartered in the cabecera of Cavite, now Cavite City. Emilio Aguinaldo, the captain municipal of Cavite el Viejo, presently Kawit, asked Col. Pargas for a detachment of soldiers to protect his town from bandits on the morning of August 31, 1896. Aguinaldo planned 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 infantrymen had been sent to Manila upon urgent summons from Governor and Captain-General Ramon Blanco. Governor Blanco 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. Aguinaldo, with the help of Candido Trias Tirona and Santiago Daño, led the assault and capture of the town's tribunal (municipal building). Earlier that day, San Francisco de Malabon (now General Trias) and Noveleta had risen in arms and taken over the control of the local government. It was the cry of Cavite on August

31, 1896, that signaled the beginning of the revolution which engulfed the whole country. The revolutionists overthrew the Spanish sovereignty in the Philippines. Historical documents show that during the revolutionary regime, Cavite had three politico-military governors. They are Mariano Trias, Emiliano Riego de Dios, and Ladislao Diwa.

The American regime succeeded after the revolution. 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, the acting governor (1939), and Luis Y. Ferrer, Jr. (1940-1944). Mariano N. Castañeda succeeded Ferrer and served 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. Francisco T. Arca succeeded after he served for only a few months.

The Third Republic was established on July 4, 1946, by 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 turns in replace of Camerino's position.

Camerino was elected governor in 1952. However, toward the latter part of his term, Dominador Mangubat replaced him and acted as governor from 1954 to 1955. Delfin Montano followed and was elected as governor for four consecutive terms from 1956 to 1971. Lino D. Bocalan succeeded him in 1972. Dominador M. Camerino followed and 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 from 1986 to 1987. Remulla was reelected for a long term (1987-1995). Epimaco A. Velasco succeeded from 1995 to January 1998. Ramon "Bong" Revilla, Jr. was appointed in place of him when Velasco

was given a position as Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). Revilla served from February 2, 1998 to 2001. Erineo "Ayong" S. Maliksi replaced him in 2001. Maliksi served for three consecutive terms (2001 – 2010).

Juanito Victor "Jonvic" C. Remulla 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 vowed to continue the programs of the last administration and promised to prioritize public service to the Caviteños. His flagship program is to bring the province on higher ground by making "Cavite: First Class, World Class." Gaining the trust of his constituents during his first term, he was re-elected in May 2013 for his second term of office.

In the 2016 election, Gov. Jonvic decided not to run for office, and his brother Atty. Jesus Crispin "Boying" C. Remulla, a three-term representative of the province, substituted him. Governor Boying's administration started on June 30, 2016 until June 30, 2019. Governor Boying's administration focused on the needed road infrastructures and initiated programs and projects to remedy persistent issues and concerns such as traffic and water management. The Provincial Government enhanced its ISO Registration to ISO 9001:2015. His program thrusts center on the battle-cry Cavite: One, Strong, Competitive.

In 2019, Gov. Jonvic Remulla replaced his elder brother as the governor of the province. He promised to continue cultivating a culture of good governance in the province, where its guiding platform is a safer Cavite and being the new international gateway, logistics, and investment hub of the greater capital region.



*The Cavite Provincial Capitol located in Trece Martires City, Cavite*