

Chapter 1: History

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 of becoming the main staging ground, where they could launch their bulky galleons. It 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 and 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 of 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 sacrifices of Caviteños who welcomed the outbreak of the revolution.

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, foreigners attacked Cavite 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 in the Caviteños the possibility of overthrowing Spanish rule. Thus, being 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's 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 was 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 the 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. 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 aimed to halt the upheaval spread 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 curt 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.



Aguinaldo Shrine in Kawit, Cavite

The shrine is the ancestral home of Emilio Aguinaldo, the first president of the Philippines. On June 12, 1898, independence from Spain was proclaimed from the window of the grand hall. The Declaration of Philippine Independence was read by its author, Ambrosio Rianzares Bautista. The Declaration of Independence was ratified by the Malolos Congress on September 21, 1898.

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. Persistent struggles in Cavite between American forces and Filipino rebels resulted in the province's depopulation, leading to the 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 of Imus, Cavite, led the Filipino - American Cavite Guerilla Forces (FACGF) against the 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 for 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 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 country's chief executive, the *alcalde mayor* exercised all executive, judicial, and legislative functions within his jurisdiction. He was a petty captain-general because he held the province's armed forces under his orders for defense, peace, and order maintenance. 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. With the help of Candido Trias Tirona and Santiago Daño, Aguinaldo 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. The cry of Cavite on August 31, 1896 signaled the beginning of the revolution, which engulfed the whole country. The revolutionists overthrew the Spanish sovereignty in the Philippines. Historical documents show that Cavite had three politico-military governors during the revolutionary regime. 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 early 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 was the last elected president of the commonwealth and continued as president of the Third Republic. During that time, Dominador Camerino was appointed governor. At the end of his term, Mariano B. Villanueva and Horacio Rodriguez took turns replacing Camerino.

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 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 his 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 to 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-termer 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 be the new international gateway, logistics, and investment hub of the greater capital region.

The Provincial Seal of Cavite

The seal represents the important symbols that characterize the province as a historic landmark of the Philippines.

1. Monument – Thirteen Martyrs of Cavite
2. Bridge – Zapote Bridge, site of a decisive battle during the Philippine Revolution
3. Shrine Façade – façade of Aguinaldo Shrine
4. Staff with Musical Notes – Philippine National Anthem, first played in Kawit, Cavite, and composed by Don Julian Felipe, a Caviteño
5. Philippine Flag – original flag raised during the independence proclamation in 1898
6. Corregidor Island – a symbol of Filipino – American heroism in World War II
7. Sun with eight rays – adopted from the Philippine flag
8. Three Stars above – the first three cities of Cavite: Cavite City, Tagaytay City, and Trece Martires City
9. Twenty Stars around the Sun – the remaining municipalities of Cavite
10. Farmer and Fisherman – the main sources of livelihood in Cavite
11. Scroll with Inscription – its text "DANGAL AT PAG-IBIG SA BAYAN" represents the true Caviteño spirit



Mission Logo

The logo embodies the mission of Cavite of a Safer Cavite, Better Cavite, Better Philippines. The symbols incorporated in the logo symbolize the future portrait of Cavite with just and proactive leaders, empowered, competent and resilient people, a vibrant and inclusive economy, a livable society, and a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.