

ISABELA PROVINCIAL INVESTMENT AND COMPETITIVENESS PROFILE

I. VISION/MISSION/MANDATE

VISION

A Provincial Local Government Unit reputed for operating under an unyielding system of courtesy, competence, transparency, and accountability, and distinguished in the delivery of public service for its sincerity, compassion, and sustained level of disaster preparedness, climate change adaptability, and responsiveness.

MISSION

To establish an institution of integrity by delivering excellent public service through a courteous, skilled, and compassionate workforce that adheres to the rule of Law, possesses moral courage, ensures a sustained state of disaster preparedness and promotes the values of mutual support and cooperation as means to the attainment of a prosperous future for all Isabeleños.

MANDATE

It is the Mandate of the Provincial Government of Isabela to deliver at all cost and in accordance with the governing principles of integrity, responsiveness, accountability, and transparency, basic services to the Isabela constituency, as well as increase their access to the same and ensure that all marginalized and special sectors may partake of all the fruits of development and benefit from plans, programs, and projects that espouse participatory governance and safeguard law and order, social protection, environment management, disaster preparedness, and economic sustainability.

II. BRIEF HISTORY

It is believed that the history of the province dates back over 25,999 years ago with a Stone-Age race of dark skinned kinky haired pygmies whose descendants, the Nomadic Aetas (Negritos), can still be found roaming the mountains and forests of Eastern Isabela today. The Indonesians arrived 5,000 years ago, followed by three waves of Malays between 200 BC and 1,500 AD. These pagan ancestors of the Ibanags, Gaddangs, Yogads, Kalingas and other original tribes of the Valley built a civilization based on corn agriculture and organized around the fundamental political unit, the barangay.

The Spaniards arrived in the late 16th and early 17th centuries and introduced Christianity, encomienda and tobacco monopoly. Spanish rule was extremely oppressive so that the natives rose in revolt on several occasions, most notably in the 18th century under the leadership of Dabo and Marayag.

A new wave of immigration began in the late 19th century and early 20th century with the arrival of the Ilocanos who came in large numbers. They now constituted the largest group in the province. Other ethnic groups followed and Isabela became the “melting pot of the north”.

The formal history of the province dates back on May 1, 1856, when by a Royal Decree, Isabela was carved from the existing provinces of Cagayan and Nueva Vizcaya with the old town of Ilagan as its capital. The new province was named in honor of “Her Royal Highness Queen Isabela II” of Spain at the time when Urbiztondo was the Governor-General of the Philippines.

Although the province did not play a major role in the revolt against Spain, it was in Palanan where the final pages of the Philippine Revolution was written when the American forces led by General Funston finally captured General Emilio Aguinaldo in that frontier town, on March 23, 1901.

The Americans built schools and other infrastructure and instituted changes in the overall political system. The province’s economy, however, remained primarily agricultural with rice replacing corn and tobacco as the dominant crop. The Second World War turned back the province’s growth and economy but it recovered dramatically through the concerted efforts of its people and officials.

Today, Isabela is the premier province of the north and one of the most progressive in the country.

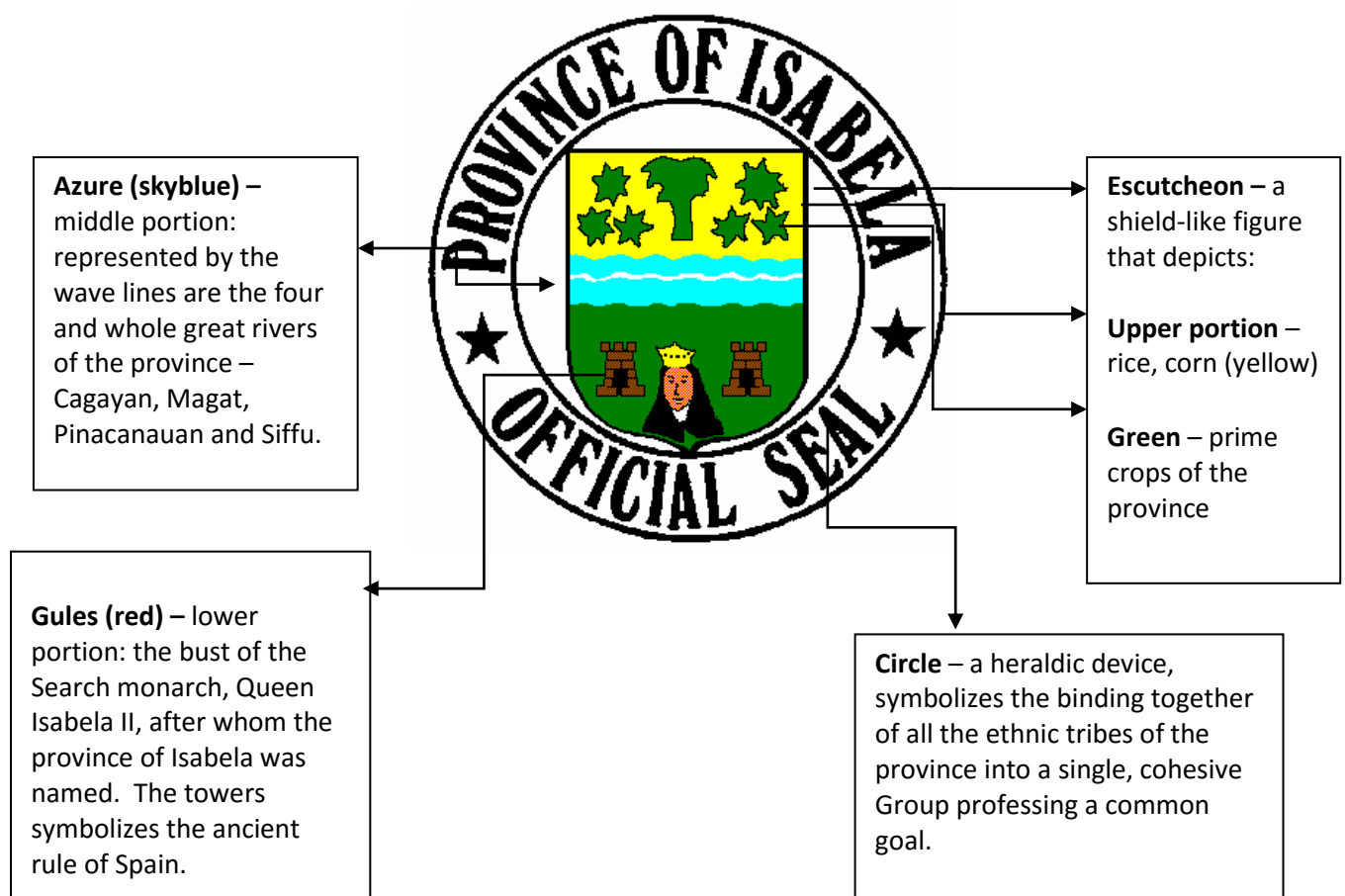
III. CULTURE/TRADITION

The influx of Ilocanos into Isabela have made them the great majority of the province’s resident population. Ibanags compose the second largest ethnolinguistic group and are concentrated in the municipalities of Cabagan, Tumauini and Ilagan. Gaddangs and Yogads are scattered among the western and central lowlands, while Agtas and various other Negrito groups live in the Sierra Mountains. Tagalogs live in the coastal enclave of Palanan. Most of the lowland groups are integrated into the mainstream of Filipino culture and are indistinguishable except for their language. Ilocano is the common language understood and used in the province.

Despite the assimilation of most of Isabela’s people into the mainstream of Philippine culture, some ethnic artistic expressions have survived until today.

Ibanag literary traditions have survived in the form of old songs, proverbs and poems that are still sung today, accompanied by indigenous musical instruments. These instruments produce both melancholy as well as martial tunes, reinforcing the cadence and theme of the spoken word. The oral traditions of the *ononi*, the *berso*, and the *pabattang* excellently convey folklore and ethnic values of the Ibanags. The Yogads, on the other hand, continue to produce and use the *butting*, a unique guitar. It is a bamboo bow using *tukmoy* fibers as strings.

PROVINCIAL SEAL WITH DESCRIPTION



IV. BASIC GEOGRAPHIC DATA

a. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION AND PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

LOCATION, LAND AREA AND BOUNDARIES OF THE PROVINCE

Isabela is the second largest province in the Philippines with an aggregate area of 1,066,456 has. (10,664.56 sq. kms.) representing 3.5% of the national territory. It is geographically located at the center part of the

Region and largest in terms of land area occupying 39.74% of the Region's total area. It is situated in the Northeastern part of Luzon and landlocked in almost all direction except in the East. Bounded on the North by the Province of Cagayan; on the East by the Philippine Sea; on the South by the Provinces of Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino and Aurora; and on the West by the Provinces of Kalinga, Mountain Province and Ifugao. Its capital city, Ilagan, is 398 kilometers north of Manila.

It is divided into three physiographical areas, namely:

The **Eastern area** is rugged and thickly forested. The massive Sierra Madre Mountain Range straddles the entire length of the province from north to south. Some of its peaks rise as high as 6,000 feet above sea level and its eastern slopes drop close to the sea leaving in narrow strip along the seacoast. Substantial portions of this area are uncharted and unexplored hinterlands. Although impervious in many places, this ruggedly beautiful area has a vast natural park, home to a variety of wildlife. It is also in this area where the province's best timber resources could be found.

The **Western area** is a vast sprawling fertile valley hemmed by the Sierra Madre foothills in the east and the foothills of another great mountain system in the west – the Cordillera Central. This immense area is generally flat to rolling, broken only by a low ridge along the Mallig Plains in the northwest and by the bald hills of the Cordillera in the southeast. It is cut into little valleys and the sub-plains by many rivers and rivulets, the most notable of which is the Cagayan River-the longest river in the Philippines (301 kilometers long) which criss-crosses the area from north to south.

The **Coastal area**, which is generally flat to rolling, is distinguished by the 113 kilometers shoreline (along the Pacific Ocean) which spans the whole length of the province north to south. The province's vast fishing grounds (virtually untapped) and natural scenic spots (home to beautiful bays, caves, small islands and virgin white sand beaches) are found in this area.

POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

The province of Isabela has 34 municipalities and 3 cities with the City of Ilagan as the provincial capital which is about 398 kilometers north of Metro Manila and 87 kilometers south of Tuguegarao City, the site of the Regional Government Center. Except for the coastal areas, all roads are accessible in almost all directions, notably by Daang Maharlika and the Santiago-Enrile-Tuguegarao Road network.

The province is divided into four (4) Congressional Districts with every district complementing number of municipalities clustered under the identified primary growth center in the province, namely: City of Ilagan (Dist. 1); Roxas (Dist. II); Cauayan City (Dist. III) and Santiago City (Dist. IV).

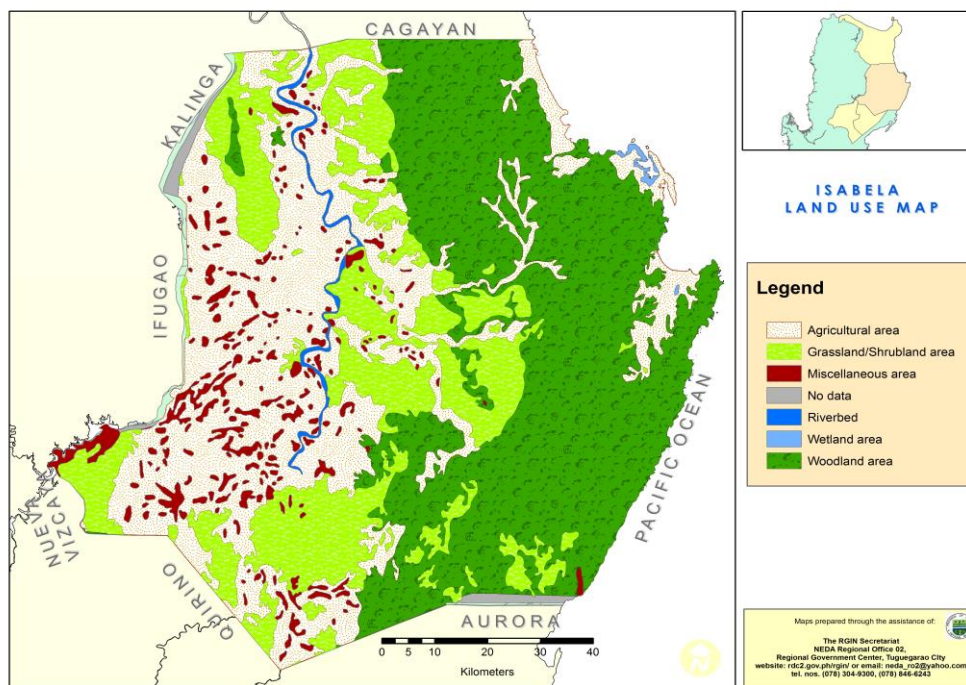
There are 1,055 barangays with the capital town of Ilagan having the most number of barangays with 91. On the other hand, the coastal municipality of Dinapigue has the least number with only 6 barangays.

b. LAND AREA AND LAND RESOURCES

Summary by Classification

Land Classification	No. of Sq. Km.	
Alienable and Disposable Land	4,596.66	43%
Forest Land	6,067.90	57%

c. PROVINCIAL LAND USE MAP



d. CLIMATE, RAINFALL AND TYPHOON OCCURRENCE

Climate and Rainfall

The climate of Isabela is regularly mild: warm during the dry season and cool during the wet season. The eastern section is slightly cooler because of its higher altitude and its proximity to the Pacific Ocean.

Temperature dips from December to February when the icy winds from the North Pole blow southward. Rainy season starts in June and lasts up to January.

Isabela has two types of climate, the third (seasons not very pronounced relatively dry for six months) and the fourth (rainfall is more or less evenly throughout the year) types. Eastern Isabela including the coastal area has the fourth type wherein rainfall is moderate and more or less evenly distributed throughout the year. Western Isabela has the third type: dry and wet seasons are not very pronounced wherein it is relatively dry in the first half of the year and relatively wet in the second half of the year.

In terms of volume, the biggest downpour was recorded in 2011 at 558.2mm in the month of September, followed by the month of July with rainfall recorded at 424.5mm. The driest month on the other hand, was in the month of February 2014 where rainfall was recorded 3.6mm. The most rainfall was recorded in CY 2011 with 2857.9mm.

**Rainfall, Isabela
CY 2011-2015**

Month	Rainfall (mm)					NORMAL (1997-2015)
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
January	70.6	48.7	40.1	39.4	67.1	46.04
February	48.6	93.9	42.2	3.6	17.9	39.24
March	32.6	127.2	91.6	66.3	55.9	46.12
April	51.7	91.1	48.2	77.5	66.9	73.05
May	268.9	317.1	280.3	219.4	105.3	191.23
June	92.6	207.5	121.4	186.6	37.6	131.68
July	424.5	401.9	195.9	107.6	100	195.00
August	185.8	179.9	153.2	125.7	247.3	213.13
September	558.2	161.5	245.2	171.9	137.6	216.05
October	352.7	280.8	181	233	207.4	250.61
November	354.4	24.8	182.3	183.8	60	201.43
December	417.3	63.5	130.1	224.3	412.4	151.56
Total	2857.9	1997.9	1711.5	2516.9	1515.4	1750.15

Source: DOST-PAGASA

TYPHOON OCCURRENCE

The province is frequently visited by typhoons. In the past, numerous typhoons and floods were experienced in the province. In 2003, Typhoon "Harurot" unleashed its fury with reported P1.9B damages. The last quarter of the year of 2004 proved another disaster in the

province with successive occurrences of typhoons and floods with P1.0B worth of agricultural crop damages reported. In 2010, a total of P3.592 Billion total damages were caused by Typhoon Juan believed to be the strongest so far to hit the province. These calamities could have been stronger if it were not for the protection provided by the natural barrier of the Sierra Madre Mountain Ranges.

In 2008, Isabela experienced a major flashflood where 18,831 families were affected, 4 recorded deaths, 3 reported missing and 3 were injured. Damage to agricultural crops totaled to P157M while damage to infrastructure reached P48M. Ilagan was heavily affected by this flashflood in 2008 affecting about 2,670 families, 1 dead, 3 missing person and a total crop damage of P37M. The barangays Fugu and Cabisera 4 in Ilagan and Apiat in Aurora were totally submerged by this flood hazard. Other municipalities partially flooded, which also required massive evacuation of several barangays include D. Albano, Cabagan, Tumauni, Sto. Tomas, Mallig, San Pablo, Sta. Maria, Cauayan City, Quezon, B. Soliven, Echague, Gamu, Jones, Naguilian, Quirino, Reina Mercedes, Roxas, San Guillermo, San Mateo, Luna, Burgos, Cordon, Ramon, Alicia, San Agustin, San Isidro and the four coastal municipalities. Most of the affected barangays are located along the Cagayan River or its major river tributaries.

In 2009 and 2010, about half a billion agricultural damages was experienced. Flood-prone areas in Isabela include the influence areas of the 2 major rivers, the Cagayan River and the Pinacanauan River and other rivers such as Abuan, Addalam, Ilaguen, Ambatuan, Anguanan, Bintacan, Calumagan, Catalangan, Diadi, Dibuluan, Dicamay, Dikatayan, Disabungan, Taotao. Areas near these rivers have always experienced seasonal destructive flash flooding which caused damages to agricultural land and crops, infrastructure, properties and dwellings and even loss of lives.

e. WATER RESOURCES

SURFACE WATER

Aside from numerous creeks, brooks, lakes, ponds and marshes, the province is traverse with a network of rivers. Its principal rivers are the Cagayan, Pinacanauan, Magat and Siffu. The whole river network has an estimated area of 19,761 hectares, with the Cagayan River reflecting an area of 6,611 hectares or 33.45%. Other rivers in the province are the Abuan, Addalam, Ilaguen, Ambatuan, Anguanan, Bintacan, Calumagan, Catalangan, Diadi, Dibuluan, Dicamay, Dikatayan, Disabungan, Taotao, among others.

Latest available record from the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist shows that there are also 73 Small Water Impounding Projects (SWIPs) with an approximate area of 3,793.10 hectares and 750 Small Farm Reservoir (SFR) with an estimated area of 750 hectares.

The surface water resource of the province is used mainly for irrigation, medium industrial, and fish production. The river network serves mainly as the major source of irrigation water for the estimated 190,000 hectares rice fields in the province.

The existing and still a potential source of fishery resources are the municipal waters along the eastern seaboard of Palanan, Maconacon, Dinapigue and Divilacan, which are considered rich fishing grounds.

f. MINERAL RESOURCES

Isabela has metallic deposits of gold, zinc, chromite, copper, manganese and nickel. The ore reserves of the province are located in the municipalities of Cordon (gold and copper), Dinapigue and Palanan (chromite, manganese, nickel, copper), Palanan and San Mariano (nickel and manganese) and Ilagan (copper).

It is believed that Isabela has uranium deposits which could only be mined as a by-product of iron and copper.

In the course of exploring oil and gas, Systems Consultants (duly licensed by the then Ministry of Energy through the PNOC) discovered a potentially and high quality large coal deposits in Isabela particularly in the City of Cauayan and the municipalities of Naguilian, San Mariano and Benito Soliven. The coal is a flat-dripping lignite deposit of the Pliocene Age hosted within the Ilagan formation of two seams with about a meter thick each. Its discovery led to the first major open pit operation in Luzon.

The province has large deposits of non-metallic minerals such as limestone, clay, sand and gravel, stones and boulders. The large sand and gravel mines are located in the municipalities of Echague, San Mateo, Cabatuan, Aurora, Luna, Jones, Tumauni, San Pablo, Ramon and the Cities of Santiago and Ilagan.

The Mangosteen Natural Gas Field in Santiago City successfully flared up last June 29, 2015 indicating a successful gas find. The Philippine National Oil Company – Exploration Corporation (PNOC-EC) revealed the natural gas find in Isabela would complement the production of the Malampaya offshore project in Palawan. Based on PNOC-EC records the Mangosteen field-located 8 kilometers south of

Santiago City in the village of Balintocatoc – had a recoverable resources potential of 71-billion cubic feet of natural gas reserves that could contribute to 60 megawatts to the Luzon power grid for more than 15 years. The discovery will allow the country to supply additional cheap and clean energy to the people and would also benefit the business sector.

V. DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA

Population (CY 2015)	1,593,566
Population Density(persons/km ²)	150 persons per km ²
Number of Households	318,713
Average Annual Population Growth Rate	1.29%
Average Household Size	5
No. of Barangays	1,055
Language/ Dialect	Ilokano, Tagalog, Ibanag, Yogad, Gaddang
Income Classification	1 st Class
Total IRA (2015)	P2,026,206,894.00
Labor Force	1,493,000 (Region 2)
Employment Rate (2013)	97.1%
Literacy Rate	97.39%
Poverty Incidence	15.3%

VI. TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES

Total Road network (km)	1,196.75
Number of Bridges	64
Number of Airports/Airstrips	5
Number of Seaports	1
Type of access to Land Transportation (e.g. buses, jeepneys, tricycles, etc.)	buses, jeepneys, tricycles, vans
Number of Power service providers	2
Number of Water service providers	39
Number of Telephone service providers	4
Number of Internet Service Providers	7
Number of Cable TV service providers	34
Number of Radio Stations	14

VII. LIVING AMENITIES/QUALITY OF LIFE

Number of Banks	147
Number of Hotels/ Restaurant	80
Number of Real Estate Developers	6
Number of Hospitals	54
Number of Medical Clinics	119
Number of Dental Clinics	73
Number of Dermatology Clinics	5
Number of EENT Clinics	9
Number of Orthopedic Clinics	3
Number of Tertiary Schools	22
Number of Secondary Schools (Public)	195
Number of Elementary Schools (Public)	882
Number of Preparatory Schools	
Preparatory (DepEd)	882
Day Care Center (DSWD)	1,122
Number of Special Schools (differently able children)	5
No. of Recreational Parks	41
No. of Recreational/Amusement Centers	37
No. of Historical sites	2
Number of NGOs, CSOs and POs (Industry Associations, Business Chambers present in the province)	229

VIII. PEACE AND ORDER

Total Number of Policemen	1,527
Police to Population Ratio	1:1,044
Number of Police Precincts	38
Average Monthly Crime Rate	9%
Crime Solution efficiency	72%
Number of Fire Trucks	73

IX. INVESTMENT FRIENDLY FEATURES OF THE PROVINCE

1. Second largest province in the Philippines in terms of land area
2. Strategic location between the part of Cagayan Economic Zone and the National Capital center of the country – Metro Manila
3. Abundance of highly literate educated/capable workforce
4. Stable Peace and Order situation
5. Investment friendly LGU
6. Outstanding Local Chief Executive (LCE)

7. Fully established road network
8. Productive Forest Land & Watershed Areas
9. Hybrid Corn & Rice Champion of the Philippines
10. Home to Magat Dam, a major source of power and water supply of the Northern Luzon
11. Home to the biggest corn processing facility in South East Asia
12. Home to the biggest Ethanol Plant

X. MAJOR TOURIST ATTRACTION

1. Northern Sierra Madre Natural Forest Park (Eastern Coast of Isabela)
2. Queen Isabela Park (Ilagan City)
3. Maconacon Falls (Maconacon, Isabela)
4. Hanging Bridge (Maconacon, Isabela)
5. White Sand Beaches (Dinapigue, Palanan, Divilacan)
 - Typical of coastal areas along the Sierra Madre Mountains of Cagayan Valley.
6. Dibulo Falls (Dinapigue, Isabela)
7. Dinapigue Sea Wall (Dinapigue, Isabela)
8. Bonsai Park (Dinapigue, Isabela)
9. Desert Island (Divilacan, Isabela)
10. Honeymoon Island (Divilacan, Isabela)
11. Aguinaldo Shrine (Palanan, Isabela)
 - Historic Capture and Heroism of General Emilio Aguinaldo.
12. Dilaknadanum (Palanan, Isabela)
 - Is the home Agta people, another minorities on the coast of Isabela. Such a beautiful place, with forest, beaches, rivers and small farmsteads uprivers.
13. Dicotcotan Beach (Palanan, Isabela)
14. Waterworld Grand Resort (Ramon, Isabela)
15. Magat High Rise Dam (Ramon, Isabela)
 - Asia's biggest dam project at the time of its construction. It serves the primary function of power generation and irrigation. Its reservoir area of 4,450 hectares has a great potential for water-based recreation like fishing, boating and water skiing, among others.
16. Camp Vizcarra (Ramon, Isabela)
17. Pinzal Falls (Ilagan, Isabela)
18. Abuan River (Ilagan, Isabela)
19. Ilagan Sanctuary , Park and Zoo (Ilagan, Isabela)
20. Ilagan Japanese Tunnel (Ilagan City)
21. St. Claire of Monastery (Gamau, Isabela)
22. Guibang Basilica (Gamau, Isabela)
23. Sta. Victoria Caves (Ilagan City)

24. World's Largest Butaka (Ilagan City)
 - It is 11 feet 4 inches high, 20 feet 8 inches long, and 9 feet 7 inches wide. It weighs 2,368 kilos and was constructed by 25 workers in 29 days.
25. Water Impounding Dam (Roxas, Isabela)
26. Borubor Falls (Roxas, Isabela)
27. La Salette Shrine (Santiago City)
 - Located in Balintocatoc Hills, contains life-sized statues of religious icons.
28. Obelisk (Jones, Isabela)

29. Dimanek Falls (San Mariano, Isabela)
 - Located near boundary ridge between Palanan and San Mariano, Isabela.
30. Crocodile Watching (*Crocodylus Mindorensis*) at San Mariano at night.
31. Sta. Maria Triangular Park (Sta. Maria, Isabela)

HISTORICAL SITES

AGUINALDO SHRINE IN PALANAN



It is the historical place where Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo was captured by the American Forces which ended the Philippine Revolution in 1901. It is accessible by aircraft, pump boat and trekking thru Sta. Ana, Cagayan; San Mariano, Cauayan City and City of Ilagan, Isabela.

ILAGAN JAPANESE TUNNEL



The Japanese War Tunnel used to be the hideout and garrison of the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II is now open for tourists and to the public located at Barangay Sto. Tomas, City of Ilagan, Isabela

XI. PRIORITY INVESTMENT AREAS

The Priority Investment Areas in the province shall include but not limited to the following:

- A. Agriculture/Aqua Based Enterprises
 - a. Mongo Production of San Mateo
 - b. Hybrid Rice Production and Processing
 - c. Hybrid Corn Production and Processing
 - d. Corn Oil Production
 - e. Rice Production/Processing
 - f. Fruits and Organic Vegetables Production and Processing
 - g. Banana and Pineapple Production of San Guillermo
 - h. Dairy Production and Processing of Mallig and San Agustin
 - i. Mango Processing and Export Trading
 - j. Sugarcane Production and Processing
 - k. Seaweed Production and Processing
 - l. Sweet Sorghum Production and Processing
 - m. Tilapia and Prawn Production and Processing

- B. Forest –Based Enterprises
 - a. Bamboo Industry
 - b. Rattan Industry Development
 - c. Woodworking/Furniture Making

- C. Tourism Development
 - a. Eco –cultural and Historical Tourism
 - b. Tourism Accommodation and Facilities
 - c. Tour Operators and Travel Agencies
 - d. Health and Wellness Tourism
 - e. Religious Tourism
 - f. “Experiential” Tourism

- D. Gifts, Toys and Housewares
 - a. Basketry
 - b. Pottery
 - c. Ceramics
 - d. Novelty Items
 - e. Holiday Decors

- E. Support and Allied Services/Knowledge-Based Industries
 - a. Information and Communication Technology/Business Process Outsourcing
 - b. Medical, Educational and Crisis Intervention Facilities

XII. WHY INVEST IN ISABELA

“Today is the best time to visit, invest, and live in Isabela.” This was the foremost message of the Hon. Governor Faustino G. Dy III in his 2015 State of the Province Address (SOPA).

Isabela has been a consistent Top 5 Finalist in the annual PCCIs Search for the Most Business Friendly LGUs for 3 years now. The PGI was a recipient of the SGLG in 2015, considered to be the mother of all LGU awards, an awardee of Gawad Kalasag, Best PDRRMC in the Philippines, Gawad Kalasag, Best Early Learning Center in the Philippines, Hall of Famer for Best ARTA Implementer, and Hall of Famer for the National Quality Corn Awards. These manifest the province’s high marks in Peace & Order and Security, LGU Performance on Good Housekeeping Standards, Disaster Preparedness, Social Protection, Business Friendliness and Competitiveness and Environment Management, the key areas looked into in the annual search and evaluation by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce &

Industry, Office of the Civil Defense, Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

Gov. Dy's key issuances for 2015 include Executive Orders strengthening the Provincial Peace and Order Council with increased frequency of meetings and significant representation from all sectors including Civil Society Organizations and Government and Non-Government Organizations. He also issued Executive Orders further strengthening the membership of the Isabela Anti-Crime Task Force, Isabela Environment Protection Task Force, Local Council for the Protection of Children, Provincial Council Against Trafficking & Violence Against Children and Comprehensive Local Integration Program (for Rebel Returnees). Furthermore, he issued Executive Orders creating the Human Rights Action Center and directing the public safety office to ensure implementation of existing laws and ordinances on speed limits, liquor ban 24 hours before a typhoon landfall, and the impounding of vehicles used in illegal quarrying activities.

The Provincial Government under the stewardship of Governor Dy works hand in hand with the Isabela Police Provincial Office (IPPO), Armed Forces of the Philippine (AFP), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) and the Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) on all matters and undertakings that promote law and order. Recently, IPPO was awarded the "Best Provincial Police Station" in the whole region.

REASONS TO INVEST IN ISABELA

1. STRATEGIC LOCATION

Isabela is the second largest province in the Philippines. The province is strategically located between two national freeports, the Cagayan Special Economic Zone and Freeport (CSEZFP) and the Subic Bay Metropolitan Freeport. The National Capital center-Manila is accessible to the province thru the Maharlika Highway as the major road access. Isabela has become a land of investment opportunity with the establishment of the Isabela Special Agro-Industrial Economic Zone and the Multi-Industry Clusters located on the western portion of the province.

2. PRODUCTIVE HUMAN RESOURCES

Isabela has the highest literacy rates in the Philippines at 97.39% (NSO Quickstat August 2016), making available highly literate and skilled human capital.

Isabela's most treasured resource is its people, the Isabeleños. The provincial population has reached more than 1.5 million as of 2015.

The province's reputation as the country's agricultural backbone may be attributed to the trademark survivor spirit and resilience of Isabeleños. As workers, Isabeleños value education and their usage of English as the primary medium of instruction has resulted in a globally competitive Isabela workforce equipped with competent technical skills and language proficiency. They are accommodating of other cultures, possessing innately caring and service-oriented characteristics that are ideal for professional careers and job opportunities across industries.

Isabela's people are honest, hardworking, appreciative and determined. They are known for their simple lifestyle and strong value for money.

3. TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Travelling to any part of Isabela is made easy by extensive and well paved integrated provincial road network of 669.027 kms of provincial road and 527.7189 kms of national road for a total of 1,196.75 kilometer of road in the province. Of this figure, 528.322 kms are concrete, 162.2069 kms are with asphalt overlay, 464.479 kms are gravel and 38.67 are all weather roads. Several private bus companies and public utility vehicles service various routes. The Cauayan Domestic Airport is the destination point of commercial airlines in Cagayan Valley. Airport facilities include a state-of the-art flight station/tower equipped with the most modern terminal navigational aide. The runway has a total length of 6,890 ft. or 2,100.072 meters and 36 meters or 118 ft. wide designed to accommodate big aircrafts like Boeing 737 and C-30 wide bodied planes. Four active airstrips are located in Palanan, Maconacon, Dinapigue and Divilacan.

Along the seacoast, large motorized boats and 50 – tonner ships service commuters from the four (4) coastal municipalities of the province going to and from Santa Ana, Cagayan in the north and Dilasag, Aurora in the south. However, only the town of Maconacon has a port that could dock 50-tonner ships. This port is very important considering that it caters to ships that ferry basic goods for the coastal residents and to bring out the agriculture and marine products. The other 3 municipalities have ports but are only intended for light fishing vessels. The frequency of trips is largely dependent on the number of passengers going to and from the neighboring provinces of Isabela and the weather condition.

The province of Isabela has eight (8) major road networks that serves as its link to its neighboring provinces. These are the Cordon-Santiago-San Pablo Road (Daang Maharlika), Cordon-Diffun Road, Santiago- Baluarte-Quirino Boundary Road, Santiago-Tuguegarao Road, Junction Ipil-Quirino Boundary Road, Junction National-Potia Road, Santiago-Abut, Quezon-Agbannawag Road (Tabuk City) and Roxas-Paracellis Road.

The major road that links Isabela to its neighboring provinces is the Cordon-Santiago-San Pablo Road or Maharlika Highway. This is complemented by the Santiago-Tuguegarao Road which lessens the travel time by an hour to and from Isabela direct to Cagayan, Kalinga and Apayao provinces via the western side of the province. These roads serve as the main thoroughfare for transporting the agriculture produce of the province to its neighboring provinces and the National Capital Region.

**EXISTING ROAD NETWORKS THAT LINK ISABELA
TO ITS NEIGHBORING PROVINCES**

Entry/Exit Points	Road Network/Length (kms.)	Road Type	Importance	Status
Cordon-San Pablo	Cordon-Santiago-San Pablo Road (Daang Maharlika) 152.31 kms	Portland Cement Concrete Pavement (PCCP) and Asphalt Pavement	This is the vital link of the province particularly Santiago and Cauayan City to the agricultural production areas and growth centers of Cagayan which include the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority. It likewise connects the province to the province of Nueva Vizcaya in the south.	The road is operational and in good condition.
Cordon	Cordon-Diffun Road 4.32 kms	PCCP and Asphalt Pavement	This road section links Isabela through the municipality of Cordon to the provinces of Quirino and Aurora in Region 03.	The road is operational and in good condition.
Santiago City	Santiago-Baluarte-Quirino Boundary Road 9.78 kms	PCCP and Asphalt Pavement	This road section is another route that links Isabela through the City of Santiago to the provinces of Quirino and Aurora in Region 03.	The road is operational and in good condition.

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Entry/Exit Points	Road Network/Length (kms.)	Road Type	Importance	Status
Santiago City	Santiago-Roxas-Tuguegarao Road 106.23 kms	PCCP and Asphalt Pavement	This links the province to Cagayan as a shorter route.	The road is operational and in good condition.
Echague	Junction Ipil-Quirino Boundary Road 39.36 kms	PCCP, Asphalt Pavement and Graveled road	This road section links the province to the agricultural areas of Maddela, Quirino. Likewise, leads to the production areas for livestock and other agricultural production areas of the province.	The road is operational and in good condition.
Santiago City	Junction National-Potia Road 3.08 kms	PCCP, Asphalt Pavement and Graveled road	This road section links the province to Magat Dam (biggest dam in Southeast Asia) and Ifugao province in CAR.	The road is operational and in good condition.
Santiago City	Santiago-Abut, Quezon-Agbannawag Road (Tabuk City) 3.338 kms	PCCP, Asphalt Pavement and Graveled road	This road section links the province of Isabela to Tabuk City, the first city in the mountainous areas of Kalinga	The road is operational and in good condition.
Roxas	Roxas-Paracellis Road 10.70 kms	Gravel and Trail	This road section links the province to the agricultural production areas of Paracellis, Mountain Province	Operational

Source: DPWH

One of the most recognized sectors in Local Development is Economic Infrastructure, specifically its road development component as this is crucial to economic growth. Aside from moving people and goods, it also spurs new businesses and enterprises in the locality. Investing on road development is a policy of the Provincial Government of Isabela. Among the Major Road Projects implemented are the following:

1. The P1.3 Billion Ilagan-Divilacan Road Rehabilitation and Improvement Project, covering a distance of 82 kms. from Barangay Sindon Bayabo in the City of Ilagan to Barangay Dicitian in Divilacan will provide access from mainland Isabela to the four (4) coastal towns, Divilacan, Maconacon, Palanan, and Dinapigue. The Regional Development

Council (RDC), DENR, NCIP and other agencies endorsed the project. All documentary requirements were completed by the Technical Working Group. A Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) was created by virtue of an Executive Orders issued by the Governor. The implementation of the Ilagan-Divilacan Road is now in full swing with a 30% accomplishment as of to date.

2. The Provincial Government of Isabela, a recipient of the Philippine Rural Development Program (PRDP), a World Bank -assisted Project, is almost done in its implementation of its phase 1 road development project. The project focuses on linking production sites to marketing areas. It is implemented in the Municipalities of Cabagan, Mallig, San Manuel and Roxas. For the year under review, two (2) farm-to-market roads were already completed, with two (2) more already issued No Objection Letter 2 (NOL2) and one (1) issued No Objection Letter 1 (NOL 1). Road networks will link towns and barangays to support the agricultural activities in a particular portion of the province, especially the dairy industry, a developing industry in the province. PRDP projects include the following:
 - a.) Rehabilitation of Magassi-Union-Camasi FMR in Cabagan, Isabela;
 - b.) Construction of Olango-Siempre Viva-Trinidad-Manano FMR in Mallig
 - c.) Construction of Dist III-Sta. Cruz FMR in San Manuel
 - d.) Construction of San Placido-Sinamar FMR in Roxas
 - e.) Construction of Virgoneza-San Antonio-Sto. Niño-Dabubu FMR in San Agustin.

3. The Provincial Network Road Development Plan (PNRDP) is an integration of the three-year road development plan of the province, prioritization of road development activities and identification of sources of fund. This plan was the result of a capacity development training conducted by the DILG and DBM for the technical staff of the PLGU, with proper consultation with different stakeholders in the province. The amount of P83 Million was downloaded (performance-based) to the Provincial Government of Isabela under the national government's KALSADA Program. As a counterpart, the PGI has included in its CY 2016 Annual Investment Program the amount of P35.7 Million. The projects include:
 - a. Concreting of Villaluz-Andarayan Road in Delfin Albano;
 - b. Concreting of Alicia-San Isidro Road;
 - c. Concreting of Junction National-San Miguel Catabban- Dalig Road in Burgos; and
 - d. Concreting of Villa Concepcion-Rogus-Calaoagan Road in Cauayan City.

4. COMMUNICATION FACILITIES

The Province is just a call away from the rest of the country and the world. National and international direct dial-up satellite and computer-aided communication and cellular phone services are available in the area. Television programs from around the world are accessible via cable TV carriers and local broadcasting companies.

The Province of Isabela is being provided by 7 internet service providers (ISPs). These are the PLDT, SMART, GLOBE, Sun Cellular Telecom, CMD Cable Vision in Cauayan City and Polaris Cable Vision in the City of Ilagan.

Number of Cell Sites & Total Channels CY 2012

PROVINCE	COMPANY/SERVICE PROVIDER					
	Digitel Mobile Phil., Inc. (Sun Cellular)		Smart Communications, Inc.		Globe Telecom, Inc.	
	No. of Cellsites	No. of Channels	No. of Cellsites	No. of Channels	No. of Cellsites	No. of Channels
Batanes	0	0	6	44	4	10
Cagayan	5	66	26	231	24	165
Isabela	16	222	23	263	20	162
N. Vizcaya	6	58	5	20	6	32
Quirino	0	0	0	0	2	9
Region 02	27	346	60	558	56	378

Source: NTC 02

5. ELECTRICITY AND WATER SUPPLY

The 540-megawatt Magat Dam provides irrigation to about 85,733 has. of the province and supplies electricity to the entire North Luzon Grid and other parts of the country. Isabela's power supply is being provided by the National Power Corporation (NAPOCOR) and distributed via two local electric cooperatives- ISELCO I & ISELCO II.

Isabela Biomass Energy Corporation (IBEC) is a 100% Filipino-owned corporation, formed to generate, sell and supply electricity through the exploration, development and utilization of alternative and/or renewable sources of energy.

IBEC is now operational and is producing 20-MW rice-husk-fired power plant located in Alicia, Isabela, capitalizing on the successful implementation of two 2 x 2 MW rice husk power plants located in Isabela Province owned by two of IBEC's incorporators and officers, Golden Season Power Plant in Luna, and the Family Choice Power Plant in Cabatuan. Both power plants embraced the global paradigm shift towards the development and use of clean, cost effective production of electricity, through the utilization of renewable energy resources.

IBEC was formed through a consortium of rice millers in Isabela who themselves have dedicated and committed to supply the necessary feedstock for the power plant's operation.

Green Future Innovations, Inc. (GFII), also a Filipino corporation fully committed towards a green and sustainable development, built and operated a large-scale bioethanol and cogeneration plant in the Municipality of San Mariano - Isabela Ecofuel Agro-Industrial Ecozone in 2012. It is originally a joint Venture corporation by and among Filipino, Japanese and Taiwanese partners and is a domestic corporation duly-registered under Philippine Laws. The bioethanol plant utilizes sugarcane sources that are wholly owned by Filipinos. The plant is producing 200, 000 liters per day or 54 million liters of anhydrous alcohol annually. The cogeneration plant, after converting excess biogas to energy, generates approximately 19 megawatts of renewable power, 13 megawatts of which will be exported to the National Grid in support of the Philippine Government's Energy Development Program.

Living Project 4 People Philippines Inc. (LP4PP) 100 MW -P7 Billion Solar PV Power Plant Project in the capital City of Ilagan started its construction last August 2015 and is expected to help reduce the current electricity shortage in the Philippines in the near future. In May 27, 2015, the service contract of the largest solar PV power plant in the country has been approved by the Department of Energy (DOE). A twenty-five (25) year service contract was signed between the LP4PP and the DOE. The process of completion of development, installation, construction, commissioning and operation is now on-going.

The Mangosteen Natural Gas Field in Santiago City successfully flared up last June 29, 2015 indicating a successful gas find. The Philippine National Oil Company – Exploration Corporation (PNOC-EC) revealed the natural gas find in Isabela would complement the production of the Malampaya offshore project in Palawan. Based on PNOC-EC records the Mangosteen field-located

8 kilometers south of Santiago City in the village of Balintocatoc – had a recoverable resources potential of 71-billion cubic feet of natural gas reserves that could contribute to 60 megawatts to the Luzon power grid for more than 15 years. The discovery will allow the country to supply additional cheap and clean energy to the people and would also benefit the business sector.

Greenenergy Solutions Inc. Solar Energy Project is awarded by the Department of Energy (DOE) on March 2015 with Service Contracts of two Solar Projects located in the Municipalities Santa Maria and Cordon in Isabela. The 50.0 MW Solar Project in Cordon will be constructed and operational in partnership with FirmGreen Phils. Inc. and FirmGreen Energy International Inc. Likewise, the 125.0 MW Solar Project in Santa Maria will be constructed and financed with a British-Indian partner.

The City of Ilagan is the site of two other solar energy projects with a total capacity of 200.0 MW, which will designate the said City as the Solar Energy capital in the Philippines. The combined 375.0 MW Solar Project when put into operation will provide clean power supply to the Luzon Grid. Host communities and Local Government Units (LGUs) will be economically, environmentally and socially benefited as the Solar energy facilities will stimulate further private investments with low carbon environmental impacts.

Fifteen other Hydro Electric Power Projects were awarded by the Department of Energy (DOE) as of January 31, 2016. With a potential capacity of 105.9 MW, the projects are located in the Municipalities of San Agustin, Cordon, Dinapigue, Echague, Ramon, San Mariano, San Guillermo, San Mateo, San Pablo and Tumauni. The companies are: Greenpower Resources Corporation, PhilCarbon, Inc., Isabela Power Corporation, SN Aboitiz Power, Greenfield, Inc., I-Magat Renewable Energy Corporation, Quadriver Energy Corporation and Philnew Hydro Poer Corporation. These projects will benefit not only the people within the localities mentioned but also the business sector.

The province has several water supply facilities. Piped-water system is established in almost all the municipalities and is served by the Local Water Utility Administration or water district offices on a 24/7 operation.

6. TRADING AND BUSINESS CENTERS

Isabela is dubbed as the region's Trade and Industrial Center because of its demonstrated strength in trade and commerce and is

strategically located at the center of Cagayan Valley Region. The development and promotion of globally competitive agri-based food industries contribute significantly to the national economy. Isabela supported this with its peak performance as the biggest corn and rice supplier, which earned for the province a reputation as the food basket of the North.

The Cities of Santiago, Cauayan and Ilagan are major trading areas in the Province. Tumauni in the 1st District, Roxas in the 2nd District, Alicia in the 3rd District, and Echague in the 4th District, are fast becoming trade centers as well. The province now emerges as a business and industry hub in the region by steady rise of big commercial centers like SM Super Mall, Robinsons Place; Save More, Mart One and Fast-food chains McDonalds, Jollibee, Chowking, Mang Inasal, Red Ribbon, Julies, Greenwich, KFC, and Goldilocks.

There are three top investors in the province namely: SN/Aboitiz Power group with its 360-megawatt Magat Hydroelectric Power Plant; Green Future Innovations Inc. The plant has a capacity to produce 200,000 liters per day or 54 million liters of anhydrous alcohol annually; and the Mindanao Grains Processing Co. with its P500-million Reina Mercedes Corn Processing Center. In the province are multinational oil firms Chevron, Petron and Shell, with the new players following suit; telecommunications giants Smart and Globe; soft-drink makers Coca-Cola, RC Cola and Pepsi.

The Magat Dam, Southeast Asia's first and biggest hydro-electric dam; world's largest "butaka" (long armchair); the Ilagan Sanctuary with its zoo, ziplines and spring and wave pool; the Magat Ecopark; restored Spanish Catholic Churches and the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Visitation; the immense Queen Isabela Park with the country's largest LGU-built open amphitheater; and Hacienda de San Luis are the most common man-made tourist destinations. Nature travelers can explore parts of the Northern Sierra Madre which is part of the longest mountain range in the country; the Cagayan River which is the country's longest river; the Santa Victoria Caves; Fuyot Hot Springs; Pinzal Falls; Honeymoon Island; and pick their pleasure among the 12-kilometer white sand and pebble beach's in coastal Isabela. Today, the province is also the new choice location for investments previously hosted only in the National Capital Region and highly-urbanized cities, such as the SM City and Robinson's Malls and Camella Homes in the cities of Cauayan and Santiago, the Save More supermarkets and Watson's Drugstores in the City of Ilagan and the booming municipalities of Tumauni and Roxas, and the Dreamwave Hotel chain and other investments in the hospitality and recreational sector.

The Local Investment and Incentive Code specifically provide the economic initiatives, incentives, tax holidays, and assistance to investors and micro small and medium enterprises (MSME). Furthermore, the Local Economic and Investment and Promotion Office (LEIPO) is institutionalized in 2011 to facilitate the establishment of an aggressive, systematic, coordinated, sustained promotion and marketing of the province as investment location. Moreover, the Special Project Committee on Isabela Coastal Development (SPCICD) was established in 2012 with its Chairman designated as In-Charge of all tourism related programs, projects and initiatives as a way of streamlining his functions and mandate to make Isabela a world-class eco-tourism haven.

7. BANKING SERVICES

One Hundred Forty Seven (147) banks provides services to trade and commerce. Most of the commercial banks operate automated teller machines for bank clients' convenient.

8. HEALTH SERVICES

Isabeleños has the Provincial Healthcare Program, a made-in-Isabela health insurance program which complement the national government's PHILHEALTH program. Moreover, the Provincial Government as of June 2016 has enrolled 12,969 (7,784 small farmers and 5,185 others) in Philhealth and 183,519 in the Provincial Healthcare. It is also operating a Provincial Hospital and five modernized government hospitals and four station hospitals for their health services. Furthermore, the private public partnership between the Provincial Government and MSR Health Care Incorporated established a reputable medical laboratory service provider which delivers quality and affordable laboratory and diagnostic services through its modern facilities.

In 2015, the Local Health Board has conducted several reviews of the public health sector plans, programs and activities and assisted in the crafting of several Executive Orders including an Executive Order creating a Task Force for the monitoring of live poultry in Isabela to prevent the entry or spread of *birdflu* and other respiratory diseases with flu-like symptoms; directing local chief executives in the province to establish anti-rabies task forces and ensuring annual appropriations for the same; declaring a non-working day for the major clean-up of canals, backyards, and public spaces to eliminate dengue mosquito breeding grounds, and;

strengthening the Provincial Healthcare program through amendments in the original implementing guidelines. The Board also spearheaded the conduct of the annual “Buntis Congress” and “Maternal Death Review” to promote maternal and child safety, health, and nutrition, encourage participation in related programs of the provincial government, and obtain useful data and statistics for strengthening policies and enhancing health programs and projects.

Along with these hospitals are four (4) station hospitals catering to Isabeleños inhabiting the mountainous regions of the province such as San Mariano Medicare & Community Hospital in San Mariano, Palanan Station Hospital in the coastal area, one in Tumauni and in the forestregion of Cauayan City.

With the desire to have a very accessible hospital for their constituents, the towns of Sta. Maria, Delfin Albano, Tumauni, Ilagan City (all in Area I), Quezon (Area II), Jones (Area IV) and Dinapigue in the coastal area have maintained an MLGU hospital that is integrated with their respective Municipal Health Offices.

The Provincial Government of Isabela allotted P500 Million for the Hospital Modernization that includes priority purchase of Equipment like dialysis machines, CT Scan MRIs, oxygen and generators, etc. ambulances, drugs, medicines and supplies, maintenance and upgrading of the Provincial, District and Community Hospitals and Medical Field Specialization.

9. DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT

In 2015, the Isabela Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council bagged its third consecutive “Gawad Kalasag (Seal of Disaster Preparedness),” cementing its status as Region 02’s best in DRRM. Lately, the province has been declared Champion of the “Gawad Kalasag” National Search- Best PDRRMC in the whole Philippines.

Nevertheless, the provincial government strengthened the PDRRMC through an Executive Order appointing a Youth representative in the Council. This is to increase youth awareness and participation in DRRM and Climate Change Adaptation, and capacitate them for mobilization and assistance during calamities and as protective stakeholders of the environment and Isabela’s natural resources.

The year in review also saw the crafting of 30 elementary and 34 High School age appropriate and hazard specific Learning

and Teaching Modules on DRRM and Climate Change by the PDRRMO and the Provincial School Board for integration in the DepEd K to 12 curriculum. This is the first project of its kind in the country and the implementation of which will start with pilot-testing of the modules in early 2016, in 8 elementary schools located in Isabela's four Congressional districts.

The PDRRMC manages the implementation of the different disaster reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation programs and activities. Isabela is the first province in the country to organize and hold a Climate Change Summit focusing on flooding. Another Regional Summit for which was conducted in 2015, attended no less than by the Climate Change Commissioner himself, the Honorable Secretary Heherson Alvarez.

The DART 831, a special mobile unit manned by highly trained Emergency Management personnel, remained the most responsive and best equipped 24/7 relief and rescue team in the whole of Region 02, contributing to the PGI's receipt of the "Gawad Kalasag." Additional equipment and ambulance units were procured to enhance the unit's Isabela-wide operations and services which sometimes extend to other provinces to augment LGU resources. Currently, they are undergoing training as first responders to the BIG ONE.

To promote public safety during disasters and so as not to use classrooms as evacuation centers that leads to disruption of classes, the PGI put up a total of five (5) Evacuation Centers in the Coastal Municipalities of Maconacon, Palanan, Divilacan and Dinapigue, and in the City of Ilagan. P20 Million was allocated for each of the Coastal Evacuation Centers and the biggest one, the newly constructed Provincial Multi-Purpose Evacuation Center in the Capitol Compound, worth P27 Million Pesos is now ready for use. To enhance basic social services provided in the evacuation centers, the provincial government utilized the Performance Challenge Fund cash reward accompanying the PGI's 2014 SGLG receipt, for the construction of water and power systems in each of the five centers. The projects should guarantee uninterrupted power and water supply in the onslaught of typhoons and in the aftermath of calamities.

Executive Orders and Ordinances pertaining to the safety of citizens during typhoons, such as the e.g. "No Sail Policy", "Banning the Selling and Drinking of Liquor at the Onset of Typhoon Signals", "Pre-emptive Evacuation", "Automatic Suspension of Classes", are in place.

Early warning devices on weather/flood monitoring such as rain gauges and automated weather stations were established specially in the flood prone areas of the province. Through the BRO Programs of the Provincial Government, small farmers who incurred losses from the El Niño benefitted from the BRO programs in place such as Crop Insurance, *Ayuda sa Presyo*, and alternative livelihood loans. In mid-2015, the provincial government also released cash subsidies to El Niño-affected farmers for the purchase of quality rice and corn seedlings and farm inputs as a mitigating measure to ensure continuing productivity during the drought.

The Provincial Land Use Committee (PLUC) validated, reviewed, and endorsed Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs) of the component cities and municipalities. The PGI ensures that the land use plans are consistent with the Provincial Development Physical Framework Plan (PDPFP) and national policies, standards and guidelines. The PLUC recommends solutions to settle disputes among components units over alternative uses of land resources, promotes the community-based program for sustainable development, and ensures that such plans are supportive of the objectives set forth in the Urban and Housing Development Act of 1992. More importantly, PLUC ensures that Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) are integrated in the said plans, in the process strengthening existing policies, regulations and ordinances.

10. SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES

The Social Welfare Services in the province of Isabela continue to provide not only the basic programs to needy individuals, families and victims of natural and manmade disaster but also to help clients use their talents, skills and abilities in order to become productive and participative member of the community. It is the mandate of the PSWDO to assist clients and uplift their well being and meet their immediate needs by providing them the programs and services such as: Early Child Hood Care and Development, Program for Women, Youth, Family, Persons with Disability, Senior Citizens, Children In Difficult Situation And Crisis Intervention

11. ENVIRONMENTAL, MANAGEMENT, CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION

- **Forest Resources Management** - The Isabela Environmental Protection Task Force was created through the initiative of the Hon. Governor Faustino G. Dy III purposely to strengthen the partnership and collaboration with the national government

particularly the DENR, PNP and Philippine Army in their regulatory and enforcement of environmental laws.

- The Provincial Nursery Management and Operation continues to prosper having produced more or less half million assorted fruits, forest, ornamental, coconut seedlings and bamboo propagules and already disposed about 200,000 seedlings to the different recipients all over the province.

In support to the National Greening Program (NGP), the Provincial Government of Isabela intends to assist the different stakeholders through an establishment of a Provincial Clonal Nursery, a joint venture with the SN Aboitiz, Inc. Other inspiring partnership and linkages with the Energy Development Corporation, Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Foundation for Sustainable Society Inc. (FSSI) Plant TREES Project and Cabiokid STEP were all part of the Provincial Nursery Operational Activities and Watershed Management Project.

In the urgency to address concerns on Environmental Management, the PGI through the Provincial Development Council (PDC) approved the Proposed Clustering on Municipal Sanitary Landfill in the Province of Isabela as a mandate of the Provincial Ecological Solid Waste Management Board.

The 10-year Provincial Ecological Solid Waste Management (ESWM) Plan covering the period CY 2015-2024 was approved and adopted under SP Resolution No. 113 series of 2014 and was endorsed to the National Solid Waste Management Commission for their review and approval.

12. AGRICULTURE

“We will make the small farmers and fisherfolks rich.” A commitment and battle cry of the Local Chief Executive of the Provincial Government of Isabela. Gigantic task as it may seem, the agriculture and fishery sectors welcomed the pronouncement being consistent with the Office’ vision of modernizing the smallholder farmers through the provision of services designed for the welfare of marginalized Isabeleños.

Isabela is the country’s No. 1 province in corn production and the biggest surplus producer of rice. The province is also a National Agri-Pinoy Rice Achievers Hall of Famer (2013-2015). The administration’s 13-component **“BRO Small Farmer Assistance” program**, a comprehensive all-embracing solution to the problems in the farming sector and the first of its kind in LGU history in the

country, once more sustained Isabela's economic performance in 2015, the 3rd year of its implementation. The subsidy-cum-capacity building program is tailored to address the most pressing needs of small farmers, including nutrition supplementation and cash subsidies for the farmers' pre-school children, free college education for their children, crop insurance, livelihood loans for individuals and cooperatives, free livestock for raising, national and provincial health coverage, social security, accident coverage, climate-resilient housing, transportation and pricing subsidies.

The strong partnership among the Provincial Government, city and municipal local government units (LGUs) and small farmers in the implementation of the BRO program is a key factor in reducing poverty threshold in Isabela from 24% in 2010 to 19% in 2013 to an all-time low of 15% in 2015.

The **BRO-PSP** or **PANEGURO SA PANANIM**, one of the 13 program components, catered to the crop insurance needs of around 21,000 farmers in Isabela. More than 8,000 hectares of farmland were insured with the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) as of the year in review.

The **BRO-PPP** or **PANTAWID PAMASAHE Program** which aims to reduce the cost of transporting produce and the **BRO-ASAP** or **AYUDA SA PRESYO program** which provides for a "premium buying price" for corn and palay sold by small farmers to the National Food Authority, encouraged farmers to sell to the NFA because of the additional income they can earn from the PGI price subsidy. The scheme has been effective in helping the NFA meet its quota for the year and ensured sufficient grain supply, even for typhoon season stockpiling purposes.

The **BRO-LAMFP** or **Loan Assistance for Marginalized Farmers Program** gave soft loans to 11,572 marginalized farmers in urgent need of assistance during the El Niño. The number of **BRO LIVELIHOOD** loan assistance program grantees reached 20,000 in 2015. This component, together with the BRO-PAIWI which is a free animal dispersal project to provide a livelihood alternative or additional income sources via livestock raising, has been effective in improving the daily living conditions of farmers.

In 2015, the total of small farmers enrolled for free by the PGI in the **BRO-INSURANCE** component reached 30,000; 8,000 in **PHILHEALTH** and the **PROVINCIAL HEALTHCARE**; 16,252 in the **BRO-EDUCATION** Free College Scholarship.

The **BRO PAIWI** or Animal Dispersal Program were granted to wives of small farmers and members of women's organization, giving them an opportunity to earn additional income. In 2015, the Office of the Provincial Veterinarian dispersed a total of 7,808 livestock with an allotment of P2.720 Million.

In 2015, the **BRO SSS** OR Social Security Coverage was added to the BRO Farmer Assistance Program to uplift the lives of the members of the small farming communities. The free enrolment of the farmers in SSS provides for emergency financial assistance, sickness compensation and reimbursement, livelihood assistance, and retirement benefit. In its first year, the PGI was able to enroll 4,926 farmers in 34 municipalities.

The **BRO PAG-IBIG** was added to the BRO program also in 2015. This is in consideration of the fact that small farmers are most vulnerable to the impact of climate change-related disasters. PGI has enrolled 5,040 farmers and farm workers in the Pag-ibig Fund in 2015. The enrolment entitles them to take out multi-purpose loans for emergency needs, calamity loans, and housing loans after 24 months. Total monthly contributions of the enrollees shouldered by the PGI amounted to P2.5 M.

The **BRO-LUSOG** is the 13th component added to the BRO FA Program in 2015. LUSOG stands for Laban sa Under nutrition, sa Obesity, at Gutom. This program addresses the problem on malnutrition among children aged 0-5 in small farming families. Under the Program, the PGI will provide P500 nutrition subsidy to every registered child's family which will be preconditioned on 1) parent's compliance with the required regular weighing of the child, 2) attendance at actual nutritional feeding sessions in Farmer's Congress and Day Care Centers 3) commitment to utilize nutrition subsidy for the child's nutritional requirements and contribute a counterpart and 4) acceptance of vegetable seedlings from the PGI. In 2015, 6,366 children were served in 18 municipalities.

13. EDUCATION SERVICES

Education is a key policy of the Dy-Albano Administration. The Provincial Government ensured the allocation and judicious utilization of the Special Education Fund for the operations of the School Board, the construction, repair, and maintenance of public elementary school buildings and facilities, and purchase of research and instruction materials. A portion of the funds is utilized for the monthly salaries and cash gifts for PSB Teachers. The PSB in collaboration with the PDRRMO crafted Modular Learning

Materials for Disaster Preparedness which will be integrated in the DepEd's Curriculum ready for pilot-test and turn-over in eight (8) schools across Isabela in early 2016. A supplemental budget for education was also passed by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan in 2015 to augment the annual regular scholarship fund. PGI also entered into an Agreement with the Department of Education for the DepEd's use of a vacant PGI property for the establishment of a Sports High School in the City of Ilagan, Isabela.

In the year 2015, students who have availed of the provincial scholarship program dubbed as "BRO EDUCATION" have reached 16,252. These students are enrolled in Isabela State University, St. Ferdinand College, University of Perpetual Help System, Mallig Plains College, HG Baquiran Colleges, Philippine Normal University, Isabela College of Arts and technology and other tertiary education schools in Tuguegarao City, Metro Manila and Baguio City

XIII. COST OF DOING BUSINESS AS OF CY 2015

a. Wage Rate

Industry Sector	Daily Minimum Wage Rate (in Philippine Peso)		
	Basic Wage	COLA	TOTAL
Non-Agriculture	Php300.00	-	Php300.00
Agriculture	Php280.00	-	Php280.00
Retail Service			
Employing more than 10	Php300.00	-	Php300.00
Employing less than 10	Php280.00	-	Php280.00

b. Power

Type	Average Rate per KWH
Residential	Php 10.88
Commercial	Php 9.72
Industrial	Php 9.72

c. Water

Type	Rate per cubic meter
Residential	Php 33.25
Commercial	Php 100.00
Industrial	Php 100.00

d. Communication Rates

Telephone

Category	Installation Cost	Monthly Subscription Cost	Domestic Long Distance Calls (per minute)	International Long Distance Calls (per minute)
Residential	Php1,100.00	Php600.00	Php5.00	Php150.00 (using card)
Commercial	Php1,500.00	Php1,048.00	Php5.00	Php150.00 (using card)

Internet

Category	Rate per Hour
DSL Subscription	
Residential Package	Php 1.80
Business Package	Php 1,300/mo.
Internet Cafes	Php 20.00

e. Real Estate Cost

Classification	Cost per square meter
Residential	Php660.00
Commercial	Php1,100.00
Agricultural	
Irrigated	Php400,000.00/hectare
Non-Irrigated	Php220,000.00/hectare

f. Rental Rates

Classification	Cost per square meter per month
Residential	P80-100/sq.m./month
Commercial Space	P100-150/sq.m./month
Building Space	P150-250/sq.m./month

1. Investments Incentives

Under Article VII, Sec. 18 on the proposed ordinance enacting the Investment and Incentive Code of Isabela, subject to the approval of the Board, a registered enterprise may be granted the following fiscal incentives:

- a.) Free use of real properties owned by the Provincial Government of Isabela for a period of ten (10) years subject to the condition that any and all improvements introduced and attached therein shall automatically accrue to the provincial government;
- b.) Exemption from payment of basic real property taxes, as far as the share of the provincial government is concerned for a period of five (5) years for:
- c.) Equipment or devices or other equipment for pollution control, environmental protection equipments and structures, fire protection equipments and structures, flood control and mitigation structures as well as water treatment and purification equipments and structures for a period of five (5) years from date of commencement of business operation;
- d.) Lands, regardless of classification, if used exclusively for parking, roads and other pathways provided that the same be open for use by the general public;
- e.) Exemption from transfer taxes of real properties transferred in favor of the applicant;
- f.) Exemption from franchise tax for a period of five (5) years;
- g.) Free provincial health care enrolment, first month premium, for all employees of new enterprises and additional employees of expanding/ modernizing/diversifying enterprises;
- h.) One-time first year enrolment to the PNB Gen Insurance for all employees of new enterprises and additional employees of expanding/ modernizing/diversifying enterprises.

REGISTERED ENTERPRISE MAY AVAIL OF THE FOLLOWING NON-FISCAL INCENTIVES:

- a.) Government registration assistance;
- b.) One-stop documentation center and application processing;
- c.) Labor recruitment, support for industrial peace through arbitration, mediation and reconciliation efforts;
- d.) Assurance of peace, order and safety;
- e.) PGI sponsored manpower development training to enhance workers skills;
- f.) Cooperative organization for employees and workers;

- g.) Extension of appropriate technical assistance and services;
- h.) Assistance in securing power and water supply connections;
- i.) Assistance in site selection and negotiation for road right of way.

PROSPECTIVE INVESTORS: 5 SIMPLIFIED STEPS IN OPENING A BUSINESS IN ISABELA

- a.) Prospective Investors must write a letter of Intent to the Governor which includes the following information:
 - 1. Letter of Introduction and Intent
 - 2. Project Brief
 - 3. Articles of Incorporation
 - 4. Other necessary documents
 - b.) Letter of Application shall be submitted to the Local Investment Board copy furnish the Isabela Investment Council and to the Provincial Investment promotion Center.
 - c.) Feasibility Study of the proposed investment project shall be submitted for review, reference and approval to ensure that the proposed investment project is consistent with the Provincial priority Investment Areas.
 - d.) Environmental Clearances shall be required from the prospective investors such as:
 - 1. Clearance from NCIP
 - 2. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
 - 3. Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC)
 - e.) Get clearance from the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) of the province, as the province has around 359,486 has. under NIPAS category declared as the Northern Sierra Madre Natural park, Fuyot Spring National Park and the Tumauni Forest Reserve.
- 2. The establishment of a major road linkage between mainland Isabela and the Coastal Area (Rehabilitation and Improvement of Ilagan-Divilacan Road).
 - 3. Constituting the Isabela Coastal Development Authority (ICDA).
 - 4. Formulation of a Provincial Tourism Master Plan and Coastal Area Comprehensive Tourism Development Roadmap.
 - 5. Formulation of an Integrated Coastal Development Plan.
 - 6. Coastal and Marine Resources Management.

7. Renewable Energy.
8. Updating of the Provincial Physical and Development Framework Plan covering the period CY 2016-2022 and a three year Provincial Development and Investment Plan covering the period CY 2016-2019 intended to coincide with three-year political term of the Governor.
9. Despite natural calamities such as floods and drought, Isabela is able to continue its lead in corn production and remains as the Philippine's top corn producing province. Rice production also remains high and there are plans to develop productivity by enhancing technologies and post harvest facilities in order to be competitive and raise the annual production growth rate.
10. The potential partnering of Multinational companies with local business to produce broilers and other poultry. Part of the priority investment areas are hog production and processing and cattle fattening.
11. Develop Include in the agricultural development plan to concentrate on high value commercial crops including fruits and vegetables and identify the niche markets.
12. The potential to develop more large-scale agri-processing industries.
13. E-marketing/commerce.

XIV. AWARDS AND CITATIONS RECEIVED BY THE PROVINCE

TITLE OF THE AWARD AND YEAR RECEIVED

TITLE	YEAR RECEIVED
Regional Top Local Revenue Earner for having attained Highest Collection Efficiency (Province Category)	2010
Seal of Good Housekeeping	2011
Champion Province, Gawad Saka Regional Level	2011
Regional Top Local Revenue Earner (Province Category)	2011
Regional Top Local Collector on Economic Enterprises for having attained Highest Collection Efficiency (Province Category)	2011
Regional Top Local Collector on Fees and Charges	2011
National Finalist, Search for Most Business Friendly LGU	2011
National Rice Achievers Award	2012

**Most Business-Friendly
Local Government Unit Award 2016**

TITLE	YEAR RECEIVED
National Winner, Most Outstanding Local Cooperative Development Office in the Philippines	2012
Regional Top Local Revenue Earner for having attained Higher Collection Efficiency (Province Category)	2012
CDA Gawad Parangal- Outstanding Local Cooperative Development in Region 02	2012
Most Outstanding Anti-red tape Act Implementer in Region 02	2012
BAKAS PARANGAL NG KADAKILAAN sa pambihirang kakayahang ipinamalas sa maagap na pagtugon sa Sambayanang Pilipino mula sa malawakang pagbaha at pag-ulan dulot ng Habagat noong ika-7 hanggang ika-10 ng Agosto taong 2012	2012
Regional Certificate of Recognition, Most Outstanding Performance Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (PIDSR)	2012
National Finalist, Search for Most Business Friendly LGU	2013
National Quality Corn Achievers Awards	2013
Natatanging Lalawigan, 2013 Agri-Pinoy National Rice Achievers Awards	2013
Most Outstanding Anti-Red Tape Act Implementer in Region 02	2013
Gawad Kalasag, Most Outstanding Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council in Region 02	2013
CDA Gawad Parangal- Outstanding Local Cooperative Development Office in Region 02	2013
2 nd Placer, national Search for Outstanding Local Cooperative Development Office	2013
The Philippines' CITY OF CHARM, 10 th China-ASEAN Exposition held on September 3-6, 2013 in Nanning, China	2013
National Finalist, Search for Most Business Friendly LGU	2013
National Certificate of Recognition, Most Outstanding Performance in Vaccine Preventable Disease Surveillance	2013
Most Outstanding Anti-Red Tape Act Implementer in Region 02	2014
Natatanging Lalawigan, 2014 Agri Pinoy National Rice Achievers Awards	2014
National Quality Corn Achievers Awards	2014
National Finalist, Search for Most Business Friendly LGU	2014
CDA Gawad Parangal-Outstanding Local Cooperative Development Office in Region 02	2014
2 nd Placer, Most Outstanding Local Cooperative Development Office in the Philippines	2014
Gawad Kalasag, Most Outstanding Provincial Disaster Risk reduction and Management Council in Region 02``	2014
Second Best PDRRMC in the Philippines	2014
Gawad Kalasag, Best Early Learning Center in the Philippines	2014

**Most Business-Friendly
Local Government Unit Award 2016**

TITLE	YEAR RECEIVED
Hall of Fame, Best Anti-Red Tape Act Implementer in Region 02	2015
Most Outstanding in Project Popularizing and Recognizing Excellence in Preparedness and Resilience Against Emerging Disaster (PROJECT PREPARE-READY 24/7) in Region 02	2015
Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG)	2015
Hall of Fame, Outstanding Local Government Unit for the National Quality Corn Awards	2015
Gawad Kalasag, Most Outstanding Provincial Disaster Risk reduction and Management Council in Region 02	2015
First Placer, Best Performing LGU Cooperative Development Office in Region 02	2015
Second Placer, Best Performing LGU Cooperative Development Office in the Philippines	2015
National Finalist, Most Business Friendly LGU	2015
Gawad Kalasag Best PDRRMC in the Philippines	2015
Gawad Kalasag, Best Early Learning Center in the Philippines	2015

