



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Isabela
ISABELA TOURISM OFFICE



**HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE
MUNICIPALITY OF RAMON, ISABELA**

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Little is written on local histories. Oral narrations of histories by our ancestors are slowly fading and becoming inaccurate as time pass by. It is believed that to be able to love our country, we must first know the background of our hometown. Having knowledge of our town's history make us understand the struggle of our pioneers in their quest for a community of their own and their contribution to the growth of our country as well.

The territory of what is now the Municipality of Ramon in southern Isabela, along the foot of the Cordillera, is rich in history. The old Spanish settlements of Lappau, Vallecillo, Begona and Oscariz are all part of what is now Ramon town.

Santa Barbara de Lappau

Rev. Fr. Pedro V. Salgado, O.P. mentioned the place called "Lappau" in his book entitled; "Cagayan Valley and Eastern Cordillera 1581-1898". According to the Dominican historian priest Julian Malumbres, Lappau "*was in the neighborhood of the present Oscariz*". From Ilagan and Itugud (now Reina Mercedes town), the Dominican missionaries went southwest by the Magat River, founding first the old Cauayan along the Magat River and then Lappau. Almost simultaneously with Lappau, Carig (now Santiago City) was founded, though this was not along the bank of the Magat River. *Lappau* is an Ibanag word which means *flower* probably named because of the abundance of flower in the area and along the banks of the Magat River.

Fray Antonio del Campo frequented Lappau and laid the groundwork for the establishment of a mission. The Roman Catholic Church of Lappau was finished on August 1, 1742 and was accepted as an ecclesiastical mission under the patronage of Saint Barbara on May 4, 1743. Originally, Lappau was a relatively important town, in fact more important than Carig, not only because Lappau had more Christians than Carig, but also because the missionary in charge of Carig had his residence and base in Lappau.

According to Fray Del Campo, in a letter dated December 1, 1742, a military expedition was conducted where they seized pagans and apostates who escaped in the towns of Gamu and Tarangao to live in Lappau. In the 1746 *Padron de Almas* or *List of Baptized Inhabitants* in the Spanish-controlled towns, Lappau had 97 souls compared to Carig with only 30.

The Dominican Provincial, Fray Jose Herrera, wrote to King Charles III of Spain dated December 1752 stating: "*Lappau, this is composed of 300 Christians, children, and adults combined, and 144 catechumens*" while "*Carig, this town is composed of 107 catechumens and 55 Christians*".

The new settlement faced the perennial problem experienced by the lowlanders in Cagayan Valley. The pagan Gaddangs of Siffu (Mallig plains) continued to harass and did damage to Christian communities in Lappau including the towns of Cauayan and Carig. In April of 1754, Don Juan Cauilan (general master-of-camp of all the Irraya, of Diffun up to the town of Bagabag) conducted a military campaign and subdued the Gaddangs. In 1757, the town decreased in population because of the frequent attacks by the Igorot Ifugaos of the Cordilleras and ceased to be a vicarage. In 1759, the inhabitants of Lappau were transferred to San Joaquin de Sinabbaran, now a barangay

of Echague town and in 1765, they were ultimately relocated to Camarag. A mere 16 years after its acceptance as an official ecclesiastical mission, Lappau was abandoned.

Creation of the Province of Nueva Vizcaya

On May 24, 1839, Cagayan *alcaldia* was divided upon the creation of the province of Nueva Vizcaya which comprised all towns from Ilagan to Aritao in Caraballo del Sur including the *visita* of Palanan (then a part of Nueva Ecija province) and Catalangan (settlements in the Sierra Madre). The territory now known as Ramon town was incorporated in the new province under the jurisdiction of the *pueblo* of Santiago de Carig.

The Fort of Begona

The recurrence of the Igorot Ifugaos problem and upon receipt of the petitions of the missionaries and the *principalias* of Paniqui (Carig, Bagabag, Solano and Bayombong) prompted Governor-General Narciso Clavería y Zaldúa (1844-1849) to visit Cagayan Valley in 1846. He assigned "*his best aid and perhaps the best soldier that then existed in the whole archipelago*", Don Mariano Oscariz, as military governor of Nueva Vizcaya.

The word "Igorot" is an exonym, derived from the archaic Tagalog term for "mountain people" (formed from the prefix *i-*, "dweller of" and *golot*, "mountain range"). During the Spanish colonial era, the term was variously recorded as *Igolot*, *Ygolot*, and *Igorrote*, compliant to Spanish orthography. The endonyms "*Ifugao*" or "*Ipugao*" (which also means "mountain people") are used more frequently within the Igorots themselves, as *igorot* is viewed by some as slightly pejorative. The Amganad, Ayangan, Kiangan, Gilipanes, Quiangan, Tuwali, Mayoyao, Mayaoyaw and Bunhian are natives of what is now Ifugao province.

The Governor-Captain General instructed the construction of the Fort of Begona (now within Barangay Oscariz) between the present boundary of Ifugao and Isabelita in the hill called *Dangaran*. Fray Remigio Rodriguez de Alamo, O.P. drew up the plan and design of the fort. Pleased with the plan, the Governor-General wrote Fray Alamo on May 3, 1846; "*I give you a thousand for your interest in seconding my desires. I have seen with the greatest pleasure your work and your designs, which no official in the government could do better. Duly accepting your indications, on this date I am ordering the Governor to proceed immediately with the construction of the fort which shall be called Begona, in the height of Dangaran, and which will fulfill the goal I desire.*"

Malumbres wrote: "*The Mayoyaos, upon leaving their abode, had to pass by the Magat precisely by the fort of Begona, where they presented themselves to the commander (and they fulfilled this), and deposited their spears; and the commander in turn issued him a paper of accreditation, without which requisite they were liable to undergo the punishment decreed by the Governor.*" A number of Ifugaos were also kept hostages in the fort, who would be killed in the event the Mayoyaos and Bunhians made trouble.

Military Campaigns

Governor Oscariz left the fort of Begona on March 29, 1847 with 107 soldiers, 4 civilian guards, 323 armed civilian. They reached Appacan and destroyed fields of tobacco, *camote* and *gabi*. On April 2, they burned 100 houses and destroyed many fields in Langayan (now a barangay of Mayoyao) and 30 houses in Ijigu.

On April 5 of the same year, many groups of Igorot Ifugaos sued for peace. Governor Oscariz, knowing that the peace pacts were always pretentions, asked for the presence of the *principalias* together with all their women and children. After the two-thirty in the afternoon deadline, no women and children came so he started the destruction and

burned fields and houses. The following day, Chief Matingin with his wife, son and grandson, Chiefs Menguet and Bilango and other *principalias* surrendered and requested for peace. Governor Oscariz gave the conditions of surrender and was accepted by the Mayoyaos the following day. The killing of settlers and Christians of Isabela ended with the military campaigns with peace prevailing in the place.

Creation of the Province of Isabela

In order to facilitate the work of the missionaries in the evangelization of the Cagayan Valley and upon the recommendation of Governor-General (1850-1853) Antonio de Urbiztondo y Eguía, a royal decree was issued on May 1, 1856 during the administration of Governor-General (1854-1856) Manuel Crespo y Cebrián which created the province of Isabela. The new *alcaldia* consisted of the towns of Cabagan, Tumauni, Ilagan which became the capital, Gamu, Calanusian, Cauayan, Angadanan, Camarag and Carig which was the mother town of the present Municipality of Ramon including Catalangan and Palanan.

Vallecillo and San Isidro Labrador de Begona

In the 1830s, Spanish Lieutenant Colonel and amateur anthropologist, Guillermo Galvey, crossed the Cordillera from what is now Benguet province and rested near a hill called Danganan in what is now within the territorial jurisdiction of Ramon town. The Spanish officer named the area as *Vallecillo* in honor of an official who died in his military journeys.

There were several attempts to make the Mayoyaos live in Vallecillo later renamed Begona. Some natives agreed but not long thereafter they went back to the mountains. Fray Tomas de Vilanova, O.P. wrote: *“On the day I was talking to the Provincial in Camarag about leaving the mission, the Mayoyaos came down en masse and, as if by magic, built a house for me in Begona and another for my servants, both spacious and descent. Adding to this, they started making rice fields, and promise that, after gathering all they had in the mountain, they would come down to finish what had been begun. They also promised me to build a big warehouse of palay in order to help those who would be coming down in the future, for which they would impose contributions to the farmers, but all under condition that I remain with them.”* Unfortunately, the Dominican priest died in Angadanan in 1856. Upon his death the Mayoyaos went back to their mountain, never to return.

In 1862, the old Vallecillo was founded as the village of Begona. The Antonio, Piedad, Arquero, Calantes, Vinoya, Salvador, Castuera, Eugenio and Baltazar families from Piddig, Vintar and Laoag in Ilocos Norte were the pioneers with Geronimo Jacinto as the first *teniente del barrio* who served for two decades. In 1882, Begona was founded as a town by Dominican Fray Buenaventura Campa with San Isidro Labrador as patron saint.

San Isidro Labrador de Oscariz

Fray Campa changed the name *Begona* to *Oscariz* to honor the military governor of Nueva Vizcaya, Don Mariano Oscariz, the conqueror of the Ifugaos. Fray Campa drew the plan of the town with roads 12 meters wide, plaza square of 212 meters and residential lots of 50x50 meters which were planted with coffee, cacao and mango. The first bell of the Church of Oscariz, a gift from the first missionary - Fray Campa, was forged in 1882 and dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary. The second bell, a gift of the first inhabitants, was forged in 1894 and dedicated to Saint Isidore Labrador. The bells can still be seen today at the belfry of the Oscariz Catholic Church.

On September 12, 1896, Oscariz was officially recognized as a town by virtue of a Royal Order from King Alfonso XIII (1886-1941) which was seconded by the Dominicans with the appointment of Fray Eugenio Aguirrozabal as its missionary. Oscariz had *"575 inhabitants, old Christians from Cagayan and Ilocos."*

The economy of Oscariz, expressed in the book "Cagayan Valley and Eastern Cordillera 1581-1898" had wide extensive land for rice, with water coming from the Baligatan River, a tributary of the Magat making rice as the principal product. Oscariz also produced tobacco, *mongos*, *camote* and *potatoes*. There was also abundance of animals to hunt in the mountains as well as of fish in the creeks and rivers. In Oscariz there was *"a fountain of very healthy waters by the margin of the town, where the residents get water for drinking and other necessities."* Fray Jose Brugues, O.P. spoke of *"an excellent quarry of limestone where the people of Angadanan and Cauayan get their limestone to make churches and convents."* The Dominican missionary further narrates that *"because of its more or less strong economy, the people of Oscariz lived well enough. They had good houses, and suffered no hunger."*

On July 1, 1898, when the government soldiers left Oscariz to face the incoming *revolucionarios* of President Emilio Aguinaldo, a group of Igorot Ifugaos attacked the town of Oscariz and killed twenty inhabitants and robbed valuables. The indigenous raiders went back to the mountains when the residents prepared to retaliate and fight in unison. The Igorot Ifugaos later went back for a peace pact.

According to Don Lazaro Lopez Incognito of Echague, *"some 40 or more unknown Igorots entered and killed 20 persons in the Barrio of Oscariz of the jurisdiction of Echague, besides robbing the following properties: 205 pesos in metal, 4 chemise for women, 2 tapis, 3 pants, 4 shirts for men, and 4 handkerchiefs."*

According to Fray Eugenio Aguirrezabal, O.P., the missionary of Oscariz, *"some 80 Bunhian invaded the mission who only attacked the Ilocanos because, according to them, the Ilocanos did not give them hospitality unlike the Cagayanos. They also sought the head of the missionary because he preferred the Mayoyaos to them. The missionary ordered the ringing of all bells for a fight, which sent them running like deer, leaving by the roadside the head of a child, before they were able to reach the bank of the Magat."*

Oral tradition; however, narrates that the attack on Ilocano settlers was precipitated by an altercation during that day. The Ifugaos were angered when one of the settlers poured boiling molasses (*tagapulot* in Ilocano) on one of them who was visiting the barrio. The victim had requested to taste the sweet liquid was then being cooked on a big pot called *sinuban*. The sweet liquid was actually sugar cane juice which had been squeezed in the *dadapilan*, the Ilocano cane crusher. Some residents managed to escape to the neighboring towns, particularly in what is now Cabatuan, Diadi (Nueva Vizcaya) and nearby Burgos village. Some stayed permanently in those places but others returned to Oscariz and settled there again.

Philippine Revolution

Revolutionary General, President Emilio Aguinaldo declared Philippine independence on June 12, 1898 at the balcony of his mansion in Cavite El Viejo, now Kawit, Cavite. Isabela Governor Perez left Ilagan on September 1, 1898 at five o'clock in the morning with 11,368.58 pesos and retired his 35 *guardia civils* to Bayombong in Nueva Vizcaya upon learning that Tuguegarao was captured by the revolutionary forces led by General Daniel Tria Tirona on August 31. Governor Perez was captured in Bayombong ending the Spanish domination in the valley. Eighteen Dominican missionaries from the parishes of Ilagan, Tumauni, Cabagan Nuevo, Cabagan Viejo, Reina Mercedes, Angadanan, Cauayan, Echague, Carig, Gamu, Santa Maria, Naguilian, Cordon, Catalanganes and Oscariz were imprisoned by the revolutionary forces. Fray Eugenio

Aguirrezabal, 37 years of age and had been residing in Spanish East Indies or Philippine Islands for 12 years, was the missionary of Oscariz.

President Aguinaldo in Oscariz

On January 8, 1900, President Aguinaldo reached Oscariz town after retreating from Malolos (Bulacan), San Fernando (Pampanga), San Isidro (Nueva Ecija), Tarlac (Tarlac province), Cervantes (Lepanto province), Bontoc (Bontoc province) and Ambuayan (Bontoc). The local leader welcomed the entourage with an abundance of food. During the next ten days, people from all neighboring barrios came to Oscariz to pay respect to the president and brought him eggs, fowls, rice, corn, legumes, bottles of *basi* and even *carabaos*.

On January 18, President Aguinaldo dispatched an Ilocano company headed by Captain Ildefonso Villareal to Carig as news of the Americans who came from Ilagan was already in Echague. Two Americans who arrived at the telegraph office in Carig were executed by Aguinaldo's men. After which, the president retreated to the foothills west of the town to wait for the arrival of the enemy. Only a week later did the Americans showed up and set fire to the towns of Oscariz and Echague.

On February 1, the Aguinaldo party returned to their camp in Oscariz and stayed there for more than a month. The president summoned the Filipino troops in Nueva Vizcaya to join his soldiers. On February 5, former Lieutenant Manuel Guzman, of the ill-fated Tirona Battalion, reached President Aguinaldo's camp in Oscariz with the news of the surrender of the Cagayan Valley by General Tirona to the American forces.

On February 6, horse race was held for the entertainment of Aguinaldo's officers and soldiers and was followed by a banquet. On February 14, at seven o'clock in the morning, large quantities of rice arrived at Aguinaldo's camp in Oscariz from Gamu. The president later sent Lieutenant Trago, with a company of soldiers, to Hacienda Nieto in Gamu and arrested unpatriotic persons in the locality following the complaints of two farmers. A few days later, a letter from a follower in Ilagan reported that the enemies were mobilizing an attack on Aguinaldo's camp. The President decided to leave Oscariz and continued his journey to the north. He was later captured in the remote town of Palanan in coastal Isabela on March 23, 1901 ending the First Philippine Republic.

During the American civil government, Oscariz ceased to be a town and became merely a barrio of the old *pueblo* of Santiago Apostol de Carig with Martin Piedad listed as the first barrio lieutenant.

Barrio Bugallon

In 1903, during the American Occupation, the homestead program allowed enterprising tenants to acquire a farm of at least 16 hectares to cultivate. Mindanao and Northern Luzon were the only areas where public alienable and disposable lands were available. This was followed with the implementation of Commonwealth Act 441 which created the National Land Settlement Administration (NLSA). This Homestead Program and the opening of the San Jose (Nueva Ecija) - Santa Fe (Nueva Vizcaya) national road attracted Ilocanos from Pangasinan, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija and adjacent provinces. The migrants arrived in the area now known as the poblasyon of the Municipality of Ramon. The locality was then a part of the Barrio of Buenavista, an old barrio of Santiago town. For more than a decade amidst hardships and sufferings due to malaria disease and unfavorable weather conditions, the pioneers labored to convert their homestead into a productive farm with palay as their main crop.

In the late 1930s, the Santiago–Santa Maria road via Mallig Plains was opened and more immigrants came to farm in the place.

Community leaders filed a petition addressed to Mayor Felipe Padua of Santiago for the segregation of this sitio from barrio Buenavista. Then petition was approved and proclaimed in 1934. The new barrio was named Bugallon in honor of José Torres Bugallón y Gonzales (August 28, 1873 - February 4, 1899). Bugallon was a Filipino military officer who fought in the Philippine-American War. He is known as the "Hero of the Battle of La Loma", where he was fatally wounded. Local villagers from Pangasinan suggested the name since Lt. Col. Bugallon was born in Salasa now Bugallon, Pangasinan.

Through the leadership of Pedro Cristobal, Jr. and Catalino Domingo a Resolution was submitted to the Bureau of Lands in the Capitol in Ilagan requesting for a spot survey of the barrio site since there was no fixed statement of assets of the newly created barrio. The provincial surveyor granted the request for the needed materials for the survey and these were used in surveying the residential lots, *camino real* (now Ramon High School), public square (the Plaza) and the barrio market site. Streets were planned; however, the mapping was temporarily stopped due to protest from the residents for the conversion of *camino real*. Concluding a barrio assembly the same year, survey mapping was continued. In the assembly, *Tenyente Primero* Narciso Casuga and *Tenyente Segundo* Teodoro Galicia were elected to impose, detail and to authorize the resumption of the survey. The following served Barrio Bugallon: Bo. Lt. Ciriaco Cristobal (1937-1942), Dist. Pres. Jose Quijano (Japanese Occupation 1942-1945), Bo. Lt. Pedro Cristobal (1946-1949), Bo. Lt. Raymundo Lazo (1950-1953), Bo. Lt. Marcos Apico (1954-1959), Bo. Capt. Felicisimo Cabucana and Bo. Capt. Angelino F. Vizcarra.

This area which is some eleven kilometers away from the town proper of Santiago emerged as its biggest village. The completion of the Magat River Integrated Irrigation System (MARIIS) Dam at Oscariz in 1957 attracted more migrants to farm at the irrigated areas of Bugallon.

World War II

When the Second World War erupted on December 1941, several sons and daughters of Bugallon, Oscariz, Nagbacalan, San Sebastian and its adjacent *barrios* and *sitios* were involved in various encounters in the countryside.

In 1943, Barrio Marasat Grande and the neighboring barrios in what is now San Mateo town including what are now Oscariz and Nagbacalan of present day Ramon town, were made into a municipality called *Yoshisawa* named after the Japanese Imperial Army (JIA) Colonel who visited the locality with Doroteo Barbero, incumbent *teniente del barrio* of Oscariz, as the appointed mayor. On July 1943, Mayor Barbero was tortured to death by the JIA soldiers who suspected him as a "guerrilla". His former secretary Estanislao R. Bueno succeeded him. After Liberation, the Japanese town was reverted back as a barrio of Santiago town.

Some *guerillas* came to Nagbacalan under the command of Capt. Patricio Dumlao, who was from Paoay, Ilocos Norte. Some men of Nagbacalan were recruited and fought against the JIA. Because of the lack of arms the *guerillas* retreated and moved to Angadanan Viejo (now Alicia town) using the exit at what is now Barangay Bantug Petines.

Hipolito Bartolome, former Head Teacher of Raniag Elementary School, wrote that Barrio Raniag was one of the barrios which experienced the brutalities of the JIA before Liberation. *"The occupation of the Japanese forces in this barrio brought havoc and disaster. Foods in the form of rice, chickens and eggs, root crops and vegetables were commandeered by the Japanese Forces stationed in Rizal and Bugallon. The inhabitants were forced to give whatever they had that the soldiers saw. Lives were also lost in the hands of the Japanese soldiers. To mention a few, they were the following: Maximo Saraos, Mariano Garia, Zacarias Perez, Miguel Iglesia and Mamerto Iglesia."*

Before Liberation, like most of northern Luzon, Isabela experienced the carpet-bombing conducted by American warplanes killing innocent civilians. On June 7, 1945, Chichibu-no-miya Yasuhito Shinno (1902-1953), also known as Prince Yasuhito left behind their trucks in Santiago and followed the course of the Magat River passing through what is now Ramon town to the north and reached the shoreline of Babuyan Bay, south of Santa Ana town in Cagayan on July 25 and boarded a submarine for Tokyo, Japan. In a book about Yamashita's gold, authors Peggy and Sterling Seagrave postulated that Prince Yasuhito led from 1937 to 1945 what the authors called the "Golden Lily (Kin no yun) Operation" by which members of the imperial Household allegedly were personally involved in stealing treasures from countries invaded by Japan during World War II.

Cagayan Valley which includes Isabela was liberated by the United States Arm Forces in the Far East (USAFFE) in June 1945.

United States Armed Forces in the Philippines – Northern Luzon (USAFIP-NL) accounted casualties from Ramon were: Pvt. Pedro Turalba (from Pagrang-ayan) of the 14th Inf. Co. B who was killed in action on January 23, 1945 and Pvt. Olimpio Vilorio (Bugallon) of the 14th Inf. Co. Hq 1" Bn who was killed in action on February 12 of the same year.

According to existing records of Post Commander of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines (VFP) Ramon Post, Francisco "Blas" Almuete Imbag of Bugallon Proper, some of the World War II veterans from Barrio Bugallon and its neighboring barrios were: Florendo O. Ablan (Oscariz), Mauro Absalon, Dominador P. Alvarez, Alberto B. Apigo, Angel Baliton Apigo, Julian Ariso, Lorenzo D. Barrientos, Gomencio DB. Belen, Desiderio Bringas, Antonio Bunag (Raniag), Antonio Cabucana, Roman C. Cabucana, Tiburcio Cabuyadao, Pedro C. Calamcam (Villa Carmen), Mauricio Castañeda, Hilario Cristobal, Juan Cristobal, Francisco De Vera, Amado Dela Cruz, Raymundo Fernando, Alejandro A. Ferrer (Oscariz), Anacleto C. Flores, Jose H. Fontanilla, Guillermo G. Gajis, Sabas Jacinto (Oscariz), Teofilo Jose, Placido Maina (Oscariz), Norberto O. Padillo (Pagrang-ayan), Dionisio Pascua (Oscariz), Rufino M. Pascual, Esteban M. Ramos (Nagbacalan), Primitivo Reyes, Antonio D. Sanchez (Oscariz), Remigio Saraos, Francisco Soriano, Eugenio Tablada, Godofredo Villarama,

The Municipality of Ramon

During the incumbency of Barrio Captain Angelino F. Vizcarra, the community leaders planned to convert Barrio Bugallon into a municipality. Isabela Lone District Congressman (1957-1965) Delfin Balabbo Albano greatly helped in the conversion of Bugallon into a township through the help of Marcos Apigo who was the *abalayan* of the legislator from Cabagan.

After the petition was endorsed to Congress, the territory of the ancient *pueblo* of Lappau-Begona-Oscariz and the Ilocano barrio of Bugallon and its integral parts were segregated from the old *pueblo* of Santiago and created as a municipality on June 18, 1961 by virtue of Republic Act 3320.

The barrios of Bugallon (1934; renamed to Bugallon Proper after the creation of Barrio Bugallon Norte), San Sebastian (1936), Raniag (1946), San Miguel (1948), Pagrang-ayan (1949), Villa Carmen (1949), Pabil (1956), Planas (1956), Burgos (1960) were separated from the Municipality of Santiago and the barrios of Oscariz (1882), Nagbacalan (1925) and Purok ni Bulan (1945) were separated from the Municipality of San Mateo. Barrio Burgos became the seat of government. The Act took effect upon the election of the new municipal officials in the general election for local officials in November 1963. On June 15, 1968, Republic Act 5276 was approved changing the town center to Barrio Bugallon. On December 8 of the same year, a two storey

municipal hall was inaugurated. On October 26, 2012, a new municipal hall was inaugurated.

Seven more barrios were created after the founding of the town: Bugallon Norte (1966), Villa Beltran (1967), Bantug (1968), Ambatali (1970), San Antonio (1971) and Villa Marcos (1971).

Name Origin

Officially, the new town was named after the seventh Philippine president and third president of the 3rd Republic (1953-1957), Ramon Magsaysay y del Fierro (1907-1957). President Magsaysay was so loved by the Filipino people that in the province of Isabela, he was honored in so many ways including the naming of two new towns: Municipality of Magsaysay in 1957 (now Delfin Albano) and the Municipality of Ramon in 1961. Originally, during the conception of the new town, the name "San Ramon" was recommended to give a Christian touch to the name while honoring the beloved president.

Wikipedia shows that the town was named to honor Palawan Representative Ramon Mitra, Jr. (1928-2000). No link, however, can be traced with the locality and the late Speaker of the House. Others claim the name originated from the word "samon", a kind weeds which grew profusely in the locality when the Ilocano homesteaders arrived in bull carts to settle in the area in the 1920s.

Under the Third Republic

On November 5, 1963, the teniente del barrio of Bugallon, Angelino F. Vizcarra, was elected as the first mayor of Ramon. He held office on January 1, 1964 with his vice mayor, Segundo Ruiz also of Bugallon. Their municipal councilors were: Hilario Parinas of Nagbacalan, Antonio Ariola of Bugallon Proper, Baldovino A. Tagao of Bugallon Proper, Juan Luluquisen, Jr. of San Sebastian and Felix Cayton of Bugallon Norte.

Mayor Vizcarra was re-elected in the November 14, 1967 national and local elections with Segundo R. Ruiz as re-elected vice mayor. Their municipal councilors were: Jose I. Maliwat of Bugallon Norte, Barrio Captain Felicisimo Cabucana of Bugallon Proper, re-electionist Hilario Parinas, Arsenio Calibuso of San Miguel, Isaiah A. Vinoya of Oscariz and re-electionist Felix Cayton.

Seeking a third term, Mayor Vizcarra ran and won on November 8, 1971 and had Mauricio Castañeda of Bugallon Proper as his vice mayor. Their municipal councilors were: former Vice Mayor Segundo R. Ruiz, Apolinar Alvarez of Bugallon Proper, Leonardo Sagun of Bugallon Proper, German Vinoya of Oscariz, re-electionist Felix Cayton, former Councilor Baldovino A. Tagao and re-electionist Felicisimo Cabucana.

Under the Fourth Republic

The municipal official's term should have ended on December 31, 1975 but was extended after the declaration of Proclamation 1081 otherwise known as Martial Law. In 1975, the Kabataang Barangay (KB) was created by virtue of Presidential Decree 684 and Amador Saraos was elected on May 1 of the same year and represented the youth in the municipal council. In compliance with Presidential Decree 826, additional officials were appointed to the municipal council as sectoral representatives. They were: former Councilor Jose I. Maliwat, Balbino Tolentino of Bugallon Proper, Maximo S. Dirige of Bugallon Proper, Mariano M. Guiab of Bugallon Proper, Fernando R. Flores of Bugallon Proper, former Councilor Arsenio Calibuso, Ceferino Lungayan of Oscariz and Vicente Manuel of Pabil. It was also in this period when MLGCD Memo Circular 96-75 was implemented Filipinizing the name "municipal council" to "sangguniang bayan". Maximo

S. Dirige was also appointed member of the sangguniang panlalawigan and served from 1976 to 1980.

Before Martial Rule was lifted, Mayor Vizcarra was elected unopposed in the January 30, 1980 elections with re-electionist Vice Mayor Jose I. Maliwat. Their sangguniang bayan members were: re-electionist Leonardo Sagun, re-electionist Baldovino A. Tagao, former sectoral representative Balbino Tolentino, re-electionist German R. Vinoya, former sectoral representative Mariano Guiab, former sectoral representative Fernando R. Flores, former sectoral representative Maximo S. Dirige and Romeo Q. Rimando of Raniag.

After the May 26, 1980 elections, Charlie P. Flores of Bugallon Proper was elected as Kabataang Barangay president. Barangay elections were held for the first time in the country's 42,000 barangays on May 17, 1982 by virtue of Batas Pambansa 222 or the Barangay Election Act of 1982 and Elpidio Cristobal of Bugallon Proper was elected Association of Barangay Captains (ABC) president. On December 1, 1982, Eden S. Apigo of Bugallon Proper assumed the KB presidency and on December 1, 1985, Maricar S. Andres of San Sebastian replaced her.

The Transition Period

One of the aftermaths of the popular People Power revolt in February of 1986, was the appointment of new leaders. The roster of officials of the municipality, which were selected by Local Government Minister Luis Santos were: Councilor Maximo S. Dirige as OIC municipal mayor and Samuel V. Pahayhay of Bugallon Proper as OIC vice mayor. The appointed sangguniang bayan members were: Mariano M. Guiab, Romeo Q. Rimando, Ernesto G. Taruc of Burgos, Mauricio O. Castañeda of Bugallon Proper, Anselmo C. Quilit of Bugallon Norte, Geronimo R. Jacinto of Oscariz, Fernando R. Flores and Baldovino A. Tagao.

On December 5, 1987, another set of leaders were appointed and re-appointed to oversee the first free elections of the new government. Jose M. Valmoja of Bugallon Proper was appointed as OIC mayor and his vice mayor was Jose Alvarez also of Bugallon Proper. The appointed sangguniang bayan members included: Felicisimo Cabucana, Federico Soriano of Bugallon Proper, Cornelio Cariazo of Oscariz, Aurelio Orpilla of San Miguel, Eugenio Castañeda of Bugallon Proper, Danilo Marcos Vizcarra of Bugallon Proper and Leondres F. Padua of Bugallon Proper. ABC President Cristobal and KB President Andres continued to serve their functions throughout the transition period.

Under the Fifth Republic

Emerging triumphant in the January 18, 1988 local race was long-time serving mayor, Angelino F. Vizcarra. He held office on February 6, 1988 with Isagani I. Dela Cruz of Bugallon Proper as vice mayor. The elected sangguniang bayan members were: former OIC Sangguniang Bayan Member Anselmo C. Quilit, former Vice Mayor and Sangguniang Bayan Member Segundo R. Ruiz, Florencio O. Obedoza of Bugallon Proper, former OIC Vice Mayor Samuel V. Pahayhay, Juanito C. Marcelo of Bugallon Proper, former OIC Sangguniang Bayan Member Geronimo R. Jacinto, former ABC President Elpidio R. Cristobal and former Sangguniang Bayan Member Romeo Q. Rimando.

After the March 28, 1989 barangay polls (Magic 7), Renato M. Vizcarra of Bugallon Proper was elected Association of Barangay Captain (ABC) president.

In the May 11, 1992 national and local elections, Angelino F. Vizcarra won his sixth term as municipal mayor with re-electionist Isagani I. Dela Cruz as his vice mayor. The

sangguniang bayan was composed of re-electionist Anselmo C. Quilit, re-electionist Juanito C. Marcelo, Jose M. Manalo of Bugallon Proper, Raymond P. Espidol of Bugallon Proper, re-electionist Romeo Q. Rimando, re-electionist Florencio O. Obedoza, Abraham F. Ariola of Bugallon Proper and former Councilor Leonardo C. Sagun.

In 1992, the Kabataan Barangay was changed to Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) after the enactment of Republic Act 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991. After the December 2, 1992 first SK elections, Adriano Sabado of San Sebastian was elected SK federation president. After the May 9, 1994 barangay elections, Renato M. Vizcarra served another term as pangulo ng liga ng mga barangay (formerly ABC).

In the local elections on May 8, 1995, Mayor Vizcarra won his seventh and last term with re-electionist Jose I. Maliwat as his vice mayor. Their sangguniang bayan members were: re-electionist Anselmo C. Quilit, re-electionist Raymond P. Espidol, Leondres F. Padua of Bugallon Proper, re-electionist Abraham F. Ariola, Demetria N. Barrozo of Bugallon Proper, Reynaldo R. Tutaan of Bugallon Proper, Jose L. Cristobal of Bugallon Norte and re-electionist Juanito C. Marcelo.

After the May 6, 1996 SK polls, Dennis Jon A. Dela Cruz of Bugallon Proper was re-elected sangguniang kabataan federation president. After the May 12, 1997 barangay elections, Renato M. Vizcarra was re-elected on his third term as liga president.

The result of the May 11, 1998 local elections catapulted Liga ng mga Barangay president Renato M. Vizcarra as the fourth local chief executive of Ramon town. Long time sangguniang bayan member Anselmo C. Quilit won as vice mayor and the sangguniang bayan members were: Isidro F. Lactao, Jr. of Bugallon Proper, re-electionist Raymond P. Espidol, re-electionist Abraham F. Ariola, re-electionist Demetria N. Barrozo, Wilfredo L. Tabag of Bugallon Proper, re-electionist Reynaldo R. Tutaan, re-electionist Jose L. Cristobal and Arthur L. Bartolome of Oscariz. Generoso R. Gabriel of Burgos was elevated as liga ng mga barangay president.

In the May 14, 2001 midterm elections, Renato M. Vizcarra was re-elected to his second term as town head including his vice mayor Anselmo C. Quilit. Elected members of the sangguniang bayan were: former OIC mayor Maximo S. Dirige, Mercedes Macadamia-Vizcarra of Bugallon Norte, re-electionist Arthur L. Bartolome, Florante R. Dela Cruz of Bugallon Proper, re-electionist Isidro F. Lactao, Jr., re-electionist Demetria N. Barrozo, Amando Q. Luluquisen of San Sebastian and Renato M. Limongco of Bugallon Norte.

The July 15, 2002 barangay elections catapulted Generoso R. Gabriel as pangulo ng liga ng mga barangay and Dennis Jon A. Dela Cruz was re-elected SK federation president.

The May 10, 2004 elections resulted in the election of former Sangguniang Bayan Member Raymond P. Espidol as fifth municipal mayor and Sangguniang Bayan Member Mercedes M. Vizcarra as his vice mayor. The sangguniang bayan members were: Marlene M. Obedoza of Bugallon Proper, Fernando S. Soriano of Bugallon Proper, former Sangguniang Bayan Member Abraham F. Ariola, Ismael B. Vinoya Oscariz, re-electionist Florante R. Dela Cruz, Reynaldo R. Tutaan of Bugallon Proper, Francis James R. Maliwat of Bugallon Norte and Liga ng mga Barangay President Generoso R. Gabriel. Freddie P. Manuel of Pabil assumed the liga presidency while Rogelio L. Escobar, Jr. of General Aguinaldo was elevated as SK federation president.

On February 16, 2006, Vice Mayor Mercedes M. Vizcarra assumed as OIC municipal mayor while senior Sangguniang Bayan Member Marlene M. Obedoza served as OIC vice mayor. On July 16, 2006, Wilfredo L. Tabag assumed as municipal mayor as a

result of an election case. On April 17, 2007, Raymond P. Espidol was reinstated as mayor and served the unexpired term.

In the May 14, 2007 elections, Wilfredo L. Tabag became the municipal mayor of Ramon with re-electionist Vice Mayor Mercedes M. Vizcarra. The members of the sangguniang bayan were: Nestor O. Banhan of Planas, re-electionist Marlene M. Obedoza, former Sangguniang Bayan Member Arthur L. Bartolome, Felisa C. Dalupang of Bugallon Proper, re-electionist Reynaldo R. Tutaan, former Sangguniang Bayan Member Renato E. Limongco, re-electionist Francis James R. Maliwat and re-electionist Fernando S. Soriano. On 2009, SB Member Tutaan died in office and was replaced with the appointment of Doroteo Salvador of Oscariz.

In the October 29, 2007 barangay and SK elections, Juanito J. Pua of Ambatali and Rhene Micko Y. Tutaan of Bugallon Proper were elected Liga ng mga Barangay president and SK federation president, respectively.

The national and local elections on May 10, 2010 resulted in the re-election of Mayor Wilfredo L. Tabag and first timer Derrick M. Vizcarra of Bugallon Proper as vice mayor. The winning Sangguniang Bayan Members were: re-electionist Felisa C. Dalupang, former SK Federation President Dennis Jon A. Dela Cruz, re-electionist Nestor O. Banhan, re-electionist Marlene M. Obedoza, re-electionist Francis James R. Maliwat, re-electionist Fernando S. Soriano, former OIC Sangguniang Bayan Member Danilo M. Vizcarra and re-electionist Renato E. Limongco.

The synchronized Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections held on October 25, 2010 paved the way for Judy Sumaoang Parinas of Nagbacalan to be elected Liga ng mga Barangay president while Charmayne Jane F. Honorio of Bugallon Proper was elected SK federation president and her term ended on November 30, 2013.

In the May 13, 2013 midterm local elections, Mayor Wilfredo L. Tabag was re-elected on his third term with Sangguniang Bayan Member Dennis Jon A. Dela Cruz as his vice mayor. The Sangguniang Bayan Members elected were: re-electionist Felisa C. Dalupang, re-electionist Nestor O. Banhan, re-electionist Renato E. Limongco, Gregorio Acosta Honorio of Bugallon Proper, Fernando Valdez Soriano, Jr. of Bugallon Proper, Marlon Brando Yu Tutaan of Bugallon Proper, re-electionist Danilo M. Vizcarra, and former Liga ng mga Barangay president Juanito J. Pua.

After the October 28, 2013 barangay polls, Punong Barangay Judy S. Parinas was re-elected as Liga ng mga Barangay President.

In the May 9, 2016 national and local elections, Jesus Datu Laddaran of Ambatali became the fifth elected mayor of Ramon with fellow first timer Melvin Gregorio Cristobal of Bugallon Proper as vice mayor. The elected Members of the Sangguniang Bayan were: Arlyn Keith Alethea Lopez Esteban of Ambatali, Rita Taguinay-Banhan of Planas, re-electionist Danilo M. Vizcarra, Candido Calibuso Natividad, Jr. of San Miguel, former Vice Mayor Mercedes M. Vizcarra, re-electionist Marlon Brando Y. Tutaan, re-electionist Gregorio A. Honorio and re-electionist Fernando V. Soriano, Jr.

Magat Dam

On October 25, 1962, the Magat River Multi-Purpose Project was conceptualized. The construction and appurtenant structures was authorized by Presidential Decree No. 693 signed on May 7, 1975 by President Ferdinand E. Marcos. The Magat High-Rise Dam and Hydro-Electric Power Plant were constructed in 1978 and inaugurated on October 27, 1982 and started operations the following year. It comprised a power house and related facilities built at a cost of 6.5 billion pesos. The water from the dam generates 3600 megawatts of hydro-electricity for the Northern Luzon Grid and supplies the

irrigation diversion requirement for 102,000 hectares of agricultural land in Region 2 and the Cordillera Administrative Region.

Profile

Ramon is situated in southern Isabela containing an area of 13,517.23 hectares as per actual cadastral survey conducted by the DENR Land Management Bureau with a population of 52,707 (2015 census). It is bounded on the north by the municipality of San Mateo; on the east by the municipality of Alicia and San Isidro; on the south by the City of Santiago and on the west by Diadi River which serves as the natural boundary between Ramon and Cordon, Isabela. Northwestern part of the municipality is flanked by the mighty Magat River which serves as a natural boundary between Isabela and Ifugao Province.

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Special Thanks to:

- Provincial Planning & Development Office of Isabela
- Municipal Planning & Development Office of Ramon
- Department of the Interior and Local Government, Isabela Field Office
- Vice Mayor Anselmo C. Quilit
- Sangguniang Bayan Member Isidro F. Laktaw, Jr.
- Sangguniang Bayan Member Florencio O. Obedoza
- Mr. Francisco "Blas" Almuete Imbag
- Ms. Avelina Soliven Flores-Bartolome
- Ms. Mabilyn Viernes Bramaje-Tolentino
- Ms. Milaflor Valentino Imbag-De Guzman
- Ms. Rhonalyn P. Maquinad