|  |
| --- |
| My Blog,  My Philippines  A Compilation of Articles on My Country, the Philippines  (Year 2006 – 2011)  Written and Compiled By:  Alex Moises  Philippines, 2013 / Revised Format  Dedicated to:  “Little Angel” Gabby Moises  My Country, The Philippines  PART II  Places  Box VIII – Metro Manila’s Top Cities  Metro Manila  Box IX – Population Information  Box X - Metro Manila's Contribution to the National Economy, 2004-2008  Box XI - Incidence of Poverty: 10 Least Poor Provinces in Year 2000 and Year 2003  Regions, Provinces and Places of Interests  Central Luzon  Box XII - Central Luzon: Provinces, Capital, Population and Land Area  General Information  Additional Information  Additional Info 1 – National Symbols  Additional Info 2 - Geographic Divisions and Number of Registered Voters Year 2010  Additional Info 3 - Geographic Divisions and Contribution to the 2008 Gross  Domestic Product  Info Box – National Anthem |

**Places**

**There are more than 42,000 barangays (communities), nearly 1,500 municipalities, 138 cities, 81 provinces, 17 regions and 3 major island groups in the Philippines. More than 88 million Filipinos live in these places. The most populated region is Region IV- A or CALABARZON Region (\*\*\*population = 11,743,110) while the most populated city is Quezon City (\*\*\*population = 2,679,450). Sixty-four (\*\*\*64) cities are located in Luzon, thirty-nine (\*\*\*39) cities are found in the Visayas and thirty-three (\*\*\*33) cities are located in Mindanao. The largest city (land area) is Davao, which is located in Mindanao, while the most congested place is Manila, which is located in Luzon.**

**Manila is the capital of the Philippines while Baguio City is the "summer capital" of the Philippines. Baguio is a city which sits atop the Cordillera mountain range and it is known for its cool weather, pine trees and mountain sceneries. Another famous summer vacation spot is Tagaytay City. It is located just outside Metro Manila,  in the Southern Tagalog region. Like Baguio, it is situated on a mountain range. Two well-known cities south of Luzon are Cebu and Zamboanga. Cebu is the "queen city of the south," although, in fact, it is located in the Visayas which is the central portion of the country. Zamboanga is a progressive city in Mindanao and it is the second biggest city. In Luzon, two of the most progressive cities are Makati, which the country's "financial district," and Quezon City. In the northern part of Luzon, there are two places which are recognized by UNESCO as world heritage sites. These are Vigan and the Banaue rice terraces. Vigan is the best preserved Spanish town in Asia while the Banaue rice terraces (as a whole) is an artistic and engineering marvel created by the indigenous people of the Cordillera region.  Filipinos often refer to the terraces as the "eighth wonder of the world." The rice paddies were built along the slopes of the vast Cordillera mountain range.**

**Manila. It is a city rich in culture and history. Prior to the coming of the Spaniards in 1521, Manila was a thriving port where merchandize were bought and sold by local, Chinese and Arab traders. During the Spanish colonial period (1521-1898), Manila became the center of socio-economic and political activities in the country and a massive wall was built around the city as a fortress. The Spanish government had plans to abandon its post in the Philippines but it was reluctant to give up Manila. It was a city which rivaled the best cities in Europe and, therefore, it was jewel on the crown of the Spanish Monarch. Manila was also the site of many a decisive battle that influenced the course of Philippine history.**

**Today, Manila is one of the biggest cities in the Philippines and it is classified as a highly urbanized city. It is located along the Manila Bay area in Luzon. It is the seat of the Philippine government and a center for cultural activities. It is home to many old buildings and landmark structures such as the Malacanang Palace, Philippine Post Office Building, Wall of Intramuros, National Museum of the Philippines and the Rizal monument. The Rizal monument is an iconic structure located in Rizal park, which is a popular tourist destination. Another tourist destination is Fort Santiago which is located inside the walled city of Old Manila.**

**Quezon City. The city was the brainchild of the late Commonwealth President Manuel L. Quezon. During the 1930's, President Quezon envisioned a city where the ordinary people can live with dignity. That vision has become a reality.**

**Today, Quezon City is the country's most populated city and one of the biggest cities in terms of land area. Much of the land area is used for residential purposes but the city is also home to many government offices: the Philippine Congress (House of Representatives), Department of Agriculture, Camp Crame, National Computer Center, Philippine Heart Center, Philippine Coconut Authority and many more.  Business is powered by small-to-medium scale enterprises belonging to the retail and service sectors. Other business enterprises which contribute to the economy of Quezon City come from the transport and tele-communications sectors. The most well-known commercial district is the Araneta Center in Cubao. Quezon City is known for its large, open spaces. The Quezon Memorial Circle is one example of this kind of environment and in the middle of this memorial circle stands an iconic structure: the Quezon Memorial Tower. Near the memorial circle is another famous landmark: the Parks and Wildlife. It is a nature's park at the heart of the city.**

**Box VIII – Metro Manila’s Top Cities**

|  |
| --- |
| **Manila and Quezon City are two of the 16 cities of the National Capital Region (NCR), which is also known as Metro Manila. Manila is the 1st District of the region while Quezon City belongs to the 2nd District which includes Mandaluyong, Marikina, Pasig and San Juan.     Quezon City is the most populated city in the country (2,679,450) and Manila is the second most populated city (1,660,714) as of year 2008.        Quezon City and the cities of the 2nd District of Metro Manila rank first as the least poor provinces/areas in the Philippines while Manila ranks fourth in the said category as of year 2000.** |

**\*\*\*Source:** National Statistical Coordination Board of the Philippines Website (1997-2010), 2008-2010

**Metro Manila**

**Metro Manila or the National Capital Region (NCR) is a sprawling, busy metropolis located near the center of the Philippines' largest island which is Luzon. It is a cosmopolitan region where Filipinos from all walks of life and from different regions and various ethno-linguistic groups converge to live, work and play. It consists of 16 cities and 1 municipality that are grouped into four districts. The 1st District is made up of only one city which is Manila while the 2nd District consists of 5 cities which are Mandaluyong, Marikina, Pasig, Quezon City, and San Juan. The 3rd District is composed of 4 cities and these are Kaloocan City, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela while the 4th District is made up of the cities of Las Piñas, Makati, Muntinlupa, Parañaque, Pasay and Pateros and the municipality of Taguig.**

**Metro Manila is the region where the capital of the Philippines is located, which is Manila. It is the region where the "shoe capital of the Philippines" can be found, which is Marikina. It is the region that plays host to the Philippines' top financial centers, which are Makati and Binondo in Manila. It is the region that has a city built for the ordinary people, which is Quezon City. Metro Manila is the site of a famous sunset which can be seen in the Manila Bay area. The bay's beautiful sunset is matched by its proud history of commercial trading that dates back as early as the 3rd century A.D. when Arab and Chinese traders from mainland Asia  found their way to the Old Philippines. It is the urban center that boasts of a massive, old wall called the Intramuros, a fortress that made Manila one of the world's top cities during Spain's colonial rule of the Philippines. It is the metropolis where two iconic structures stand: the Andres Bonifacio monument in Kaloocan and the Rizal monument in Luneta, Manila. These monuments are powerful symbols of the struggle of the Filipino people for independence.**

**Metro Manila is the political center of the Philippines. It is the place where the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government are located. The Malacanang Palace, which is the official residence of the president of the Philippines, and the Supreme Court are located in Manila while the Senate and the House of Representatives, which make up the Philippine Congress, are located in Pasay City and Quezon City, respectively. Metro Manila is the economic center of the Philippines. It is the top contributor to the national economy. Its contribution to the country's gross domestic product accounts for nearly a third of the national economy since year 2001. It is the site where stocks are traded and money is made or lost in the stock market. It is the place where novel things and innovations are introduced and new trends are established. It is where money matters that has made it the “least poor region.”**

**What more can be said about Metro Manila? It also suffers from all sorts of problems associated with highly urbanized places: pollution, juvenile delinquency, crime, squatting and inadequate housing.  Metro Manila is sometimes associated with graft and corruption in government. It lacks the road infrastructure needed to cope with the ever-growing number of people and vehicles as well as a comprehensive, metro-wide railway system. Traffic jams are a common sight. Its drainage system needs to be improved. Flooding often occurs in the major thoroughfares during the rainy season. Yet, this urban jungle with a land area of 619.5 square kilometers is home to 11,553,427 Filipinos, which makes Metro Manila the most densely populated region in the Philippines. It is the place where important decisions are made by the leaders of the country. It is the place where the home offices of many major corporations are located. It is the place where students can study in the best schools. It is the place where Filipinos can shop and dine and have fun in world-class shopping malls, hotels, restaurants and amusement centers. It is the place to be in the Philippines.**

**Box IX – Population Information**

|  |
| --- |
| **Population Density in Year 2007: 18,650 persons per square kilometer**  **Population in Year 2007: 11,553,427  Population Rank and Population of 6 Cities of Metro Manila     1 ----- Quezon City    2,679,450    2 ----- Manila             1,660,714    3 ----- Kalookan         1,378,856    7 ----- Pasig                  617,301    8 ----- Taguig                613,343    9 ----- Valenzuela         568,928**  **Source: Website - National Statistical Coordination Board of the Philippines, 2010 Version of the Website** |

**Box X – Metro Manila’s Contribution to the National Economy, 2004-2008**

|  |
| --- |
| **33.0 percent share in 2008 32.6 percent share in 2007 32.5 percent share in 2006 31.9 percent share in 2005 31.3 percent share in 2004**  **Source: Website - National Statistical Coordination Board of the Philippines, 2010 Version of the Website** |

**Box XI – Incidence of Poverty: 10 Least Poor Provinces  
 in Year 2000 and Year 2003**

|  |
| --- |
| **All the cities and the lone municipality of Metro Manila were found to be among the "10 least poor provinces" in the Philippines in year 2000 and in year 2003.**  **Source: Website - National Statistical Coordination Board of the Philippines, 2010 Version of the Website** |

**\*\*\*Regions, Provinces and Places of Interests**

**Region I - Ilocos  
Provinces - Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan  
Places of Interest - Located in Vigan, Ilocos Sur is the Vigan Heritage Village, an old town built during the Spanish colonial period, and it is a world heritage site. Another popular tourist spot and a natural wonder is the Hundred Islands in Pangasinan province.**

**Region II - Cagayan Valley  
Provinces - Batanes, Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino  
Places of Interest - Batanes is a group of islands found in the northern most part of the Philippines. It is an unspoiled land and it is a province rarely visited by local and foreign tourists.**

**Region III - Central Luzon  
Provinces - Aurora, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac, Zambales  
Places of Interest - Baler, Clark Special Economic Zone, Corregidor, Subic Freeport Zone, Sierra Mountain Range: These are just a few of the places of interest found in this region.**

**Region IV-A - CALABARZON  
Provinces - Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon  
Places of Interest - The city of Tagaytay, which is a favorite vacation destination among Filipinos, is located in Batangas while the Pagsanjan falls, which is a tourist attraction, is located in Laguna. The house where Jose Rizal lived during the 20th century is located in Calamba, Laguna. The world-famous Taal volcano and Taal lake can be found in this region.**

**Region IV-B - MIMAROPA  
Provinces - Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan  
Places of Interest - Mindoro is the only province (and the only place in the world) where the rare and endangered Philippine tamaraw can be found while Palawan represents the country's last frontier and it is the province with two world heritage sites: the Tubbataha Reef National Park and the Saint Paul (Puerto Princesa) Subterranean River National Park.**

**Region V - Bicol  
Provinces - Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, Masbate, Sorsogon  
Place of Interest - Mount Mayon, an active volcano with an almost perfect cone shape, is located in this region.**

**Region VI - Western Visayas  
Provinces - Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Guimaras, Iloilo, Negros Occidental  
Places of Interest - The world-famous Boracay Island, which is the site of one of the best beaches --- if not the best beach --- in the world, is located in the province of Aklan.**

**Region VII - Central Visayas  
Provinces - Bohol, Cebu, Negros Oriental, Siquijor  
Places of Interest - The province of Bohol is home to the geological wonder known as the Chocolate Hills,  the white-sand beaches of Panglao and a very small primate with extremely large eyes called the tarsier.**

**Region VIII - Eastern Visayas  
Provinces - Biliran, Eastern Samar, Leyte, Northern Samar, Southern Leyte, Western Samar (Samar)  
Places of Interest - Leyte and Samar are two of the extremely few places in the Philippines where the rare and endangered Philippine eagle can be found.**

**Region IX - Zamboanga Peninsula  
Provinces - Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga Sibugay  
Places of Interest - Zamboanga City is located in this region and it is the second largest city in terms of land area. It is also home to beautiful beaches, the most famous of which are the pink and white sand beaches in Sta. Cruz Islands.**

**Region XI - Davao  
Provinces - Compostela Valley, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental  
Places of Interest - Davao City is the premier city of Mindanao and it is an eco-tourism destination. It is known for its exotic animals like the Philippine eagle, pearl farms and lush mountains, and it is the place where Mount Apo, the highest peak in the country, is located.**

**Region X – Northern Mindanao**

**Provinces – Bukidnon, Camiguin, Lanao del Norte, Misamis Occidental, Misamis Oriental**

**Places of Interest – Located in this region are the cities of Malaybalay and Iligan.**

**Region XII - SOCCSKSARGEN  
Provinces - Cotobato (North Cotobato), Sarangani, South Cotobato, Sultan Kudarat  
Places of Interest - Cotobato City is the socio-economic and political center of Region XII.**

**Region XIII - Caraga  
Provinces - Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Dinagat Islands, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur  
Places of Interest - Agusan marsh is located in this region.**

**ARMM Region - Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao  
Provinces - Basilan, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Shariff Kabunsuan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi  
Places of Interest - The Turtle Islands in the province of Tawi-Tawi are a sanctuary for endangered marine turtles and it is now called as the Turtle Islands Wildlife Sanctuary.**

**CAR Region - Cordillera Administrative Region  
Provinces - Abra, Apayao, Benguet, Kalinga, Mt. Province  
Places of Interest - Baguio is the "summer capital" of the Philippines and it is located in the province of Benguet. Located in the Cordillera Administrative region is the Banaue Rice Terraces, which is a world heritage site.**

**NCR Region - National Capital Region  
Cities: Kalookan, Las Pinas, Makati, Malabon, Mandaluyong, Manila, Marikina, Muntinlupa, Navotas, Paranaque, Pasay, Pasig, Quezon City, San Juan, Taguig, Valenzuela  
Municipality: Pateros  
Places of Interest - Manila and Quezon City are two of the most progressive cities in the Philippines.**

**Region Highlight - Central Luzon**

**Central Luzon or Region III is a sprawling land mass that serves as a bridge between the northern regions of Luzon and the southern Luzon regions, including Metro Manila. The land spans the entire length of the central portion of Luzon, extending from the Philippine Sea in the east to the South China Sea in the west. The region is known as the "central plains of Luzon" because of its vast, open plains, although the region is home to two mountain ranges: the Zambales mountain range and portions of the Sierra Madre mountain range, which is the longest mountain range in the Philippines. The Sierra Madre is located in the eastern part of Luzon, and it stretches from Region II all the way down to Region IV-A.**

**Region III consists of seven provinces: Aurora, Bataan, Bulacan, Pampanga, Nueva Ejica, Tarlac and Zambales. These provinces are known for its agricultural products. In fact, the region is known as the "rice granary of the Philippines" because it is the country's top producer of rice. Vast rice fields are found in Bulacan, Pampanga, Tarlac and Nueva Ejica, although rice fields are quite a common sight in Aurora, Bataan and Zambales. Besides rice, sugarcane and coconut are two other well-known agricultural products of the region. Coconut is the main agricultural product of the province of Aurora, and different types of food and household things are made from the coconut tree. In addition, the region is known for its food and delicacies. In particular, the Bulacan sweets and pastries and the Pampango cuisine are quite popular.**

**Central Luzon is one of the most economically dynamic regions in the Philippines. That the region was the third highest contributor to the country's gross national product in 2007 and 2008 is proof of its vibrant economy.  The region has thirteen cities, two of which are classified as highly urbanized cities. The cities and the provinces where these cities are located are the following: Balanga in Bataan; Malolos, Meycauayan and San Jose del Monte in Bulacan; Cabanatuan, Gapan, Munoz, Palayan and San Jose in Nueva Ejica; San Fernando in Pampanga  and Tarlac in Tarlac. The two highly urbanized cities are Angeles city in Pampanga and Olongapo city in Zambales. The capitals of Aurora and Zambales --- Baler and Iba --- are classified as partially urbanized areas as of year 2006. Baler is the seat of the local government of Aurora and it is known as the home town of Manuel L. Quezon, former president of the Philippine Commonwealth. Furthermore, Central Luzon is host to two economic zones: the Subic Bay Freeport Zone and the Clark Special Economic Zone, both of which are former U.S. military bases.**

**Many well-known companies and important manufacturing industries --- both local and foreign --- have established themselves in this part of the country because of the strategic location of Central Luzon: it is at the heart of Luzon island. Major roads and highways connect the provinces of Central Luzon as well as link the northern regions of Luzon to the National Capital Region (Metro Manila), and it can be said that the region's infrastructure is quite good. This makes for good travel and there are quite a number of places to visit in this region. Baler is the place for surfing while Bataan is the province where beautiful beaches are located. Subic provides good accommodation and clean city-living in the mountains while Bulacan provides the sites for historical places. The Sierra Madre mountain range offers its imposing yet enchanting natural beauty to the traveler while the Candaba Swamp is for bird-watchers. One major tourist destination is accessible only by boat, and this is Corregidor Island, which is the site where Filipinos and American soldiers made their final stand to defend the Philippines against the invading Japanese forces during World War II. Today, Corregidor is like an island-museum.**

**Box XII - \*\*\*Central Luzon: Provinces, Capital, Population  
 and Land Area**

|  |
| --- |
| **AURORA Capital: Baler Population: 187,802 Land Area in Hectares: 314,732**  **BATAAN Capital: City of Balanga Population: 662,153 Land Area in Hectares:137,298**  **BULACAN Capital: City of Malolos Population: 2,826,926 Land Area in Hectares: 279,610**  **PAMPANGA Capital: San Fernando City Population: 1,911,951 Land Area in Hectares: 206,247**  **NUEVA ECIJA Capital: Palayan City Population: 1,853,853 Land Area in Hectares: 575,133** |

**Continuation: Box XII - \*\*\*Central Luzon: Provinces, Capital,**

**Population and Land Area**

|  |
| --- |
| **TARLAC Capital: Tarlac City Population: 1,243,449  Land Area in Hectares: 305,360**  **ZAMBALES Capital: Iba Population: 493,085 Land Area in Hectares: 383,083**  Note: Population and Land Area Data for Year 2007 |

**Note:** The regions and provinces represent the administrative divisions of the country.

**\*\*\*Source:** Regions and Provinces, National Statistical Coordination Board of the Philippines Website (1997-2010), 2008-2010

**General Information**

**Population: 88, 524,614 (2007 Census)**

**Capital of the Country: Manila**

**Currency: Philippine Peso (Php)**

**Time Zone: GMT/UTC + 8 Hours**

**Flag Carrier: Philippine Air Lines**

**Other Airlines: Cebu Pacific, Sea-Air**

**Number of Airports: 92**

**Some Airports: Diosdado Macapagal (Clark) International Airport** (Angeles City),**Francisco Bangoy (Davao) International Airport** (Davao City),**Laoag International Airport** (Laoag City),**Mactan-Cebu International Airport** (Cebu),**Ninoy Aquino (Manila) International Airport** (Metro Manila),**Puerto Princesa International Airport** (Puerto Princesa City),**Zamboanga International Airport** (Zamboanga City)

**Bus Transportation: Genesis Bus Corporation, Jam Bus Corporation, Victory Liner**

**Railway Transportation: Philippine National Railways, Light Railway Transit (LRT), Metro-Star Railway Transit (MRT)**

**Water Transportation: Negros Navigation, Superferry**

**Hotels: Baguio Country Club, Bayview Park Hotel, Holiday Inn Resort, Hotel Inter-continental Manila, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Hyatt Hotel, Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Manila Hotel, Subic Bay Yacht Club, The Peninsula Hotel, The Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel** (There are *many more* hotels, resorts and inns.)

**Internet Country Code: .ph**

**Telephone Country Code: + 63**

**Banking Hours: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM or 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

**Total Visitor Arrivals as of Year 2008:  \*\*\*3,139,422  /  \*\*\***Top 5 Visitors by Subcontinent: East Asia - 1,370,059;  North America - 681,922;  ASEAN - 254,077;  Oceania - 174,583;  Northern Europe - 136,260

**Major Islands or Island Groups: Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao**

**Tourist Spots: Baguio, Baler, Banaue Rice Terraces, Bohol, Boracay, Calamba, Chocolate Hills, Cebu, Corregidor, Davao City, Hundred Islands, Mount Makiling, Manila, Makati, Mount Mayon, Mount Samat, Pagsanjan Falls, Palawan, Quezon City, Subic Free Port, Taal, Tagaytay City, Zamboanga City, Vigan**

**Natural Wonders: Chocolate Hills, Hundred Islands, Mt. Mayon, Pagsanjan Falls, El Nido in Palawan, Palawan Province, Panglao in Bohol, Sierra Madre Mountain Range, Taal Lake and Taal Volcano, Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park in Palawan** (There are *many more* natural wonders.)

**Festivals: Ati-atihan** (Third week of January in Kalibo, Aklan province),  **Baguio Flower Festival** (Fourth week of February in Baguio),**Moriones Festival** (Easter weekend - usually in April during lent season - in Marinduque province),**Carabao Festival** (May 14 in Pulilan, Bulacan province),**Pahiyas** (May 15 in San Isidro, Lucban, Quezon province),  **Flores de Mayo** (Throughout May and nationwide),**Kadayawan** (Third week of August in Davao city),**Lanzones Festival** (Third or fourth week of October in Mambajao, Camiguin),**Giant Lantern Festival** (Third Week of December in San Fernando, Pampanga)

**National Celebrations and Commemorations: New** Year (December 31-January 1), **Lent Season** (March or April for four days at least),**Flores de Mayo** (Throughout May),**Independence** Day (June 12),**All Saints Day and All Souls Day** (November 1 and 2),**Bonifacio Day** (November 30), **Christmas** (December 24 -25),**Rizal Day** (December 30)

**Business and Industry: Aristocrat** (food and restaurant),**Asia Brewery** (beverage),**Araneta Center** (real estate, retail and general merchandiser),  **Ayala Corporation** (real estate),**Banco de Oro** (banking),**Bank of the Philippine Islands** (banking),**EEI Corporation** (construction and engineering),**Manila Bulletin** (print media),**Max Restaurant** (food and restaurant),**Meralco** (electricity),**Mercury Drug** (pharmaceutical),**National Book** Store (school and office supplies, retail and general merchandiser),**Ortigas & Company Limited Partnership** (real estate, retail and general merchandiser),**Pampanga's Best** (food),**Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company** (communications),**Robinsons Malls** (retail and general merchandiser),**San Miguel Corporation** (food and beverage),**SM Malls** (retail and general merchandiser),  **Solar Entertainment Corporation** (broadcasting),**Triple V Group** (food and restaurant),**Universal Robina Corporation** (food and beverage)  /  (There are *many more* companies of Filipino origin.)

**\*\*\*Source:** National Statistical Coordination Board of the Philippines Website (1997-2010), 2010

**Additional Information**

**Additional Info 1- National Symbols**

|  |
| --- |
| **National Animal:  Carabao (Water Buffalo) National Anthem:  Lupang Hinirang National Bird:  Philippine Eagle National Dance:  Tinikling National Dress for Men:  Barong Tagalog National Dress for Women:  Baro't Saya  National Fish:  Bangus (Milkfish) National Flower:  Sampaguita National Food:  Lechon or Litson (Roasted Pig) National Fruit:  Mango National Hero:  Jose Rizal National House:  Nipa Hut  National Tree:  Narra  National Sports or Game:  Sipa (Ballgame)** |

**Additional Info 2 - Geographic Divisions and Number of**

**Registered Voters Year 2010**

|  |
| --- |
| **Luzon Group of Islands - 28,368,890 Visayas Group of Islands - 10,290,090 Mindanao Group of Islands - 12,064,753**  **(Philippines - 50,723,733)            Source: Website - National Statistical Coordination Board of the Philippines, 2010 Version of the Website** |

**Additional Info 3: Geographic Divisions and Contribution to the**

**2008 Gross Domestic Product**

|  |
| --- |
| **Luzon Group of Islands (excluding the National**  **Region) - 32.7 percent**  **Visayas Group of Islands - 16.5 percent Mindanao Group of Islands - 17.7 percent            Source: Website - National Statistical Coordination Board of the Philippines Website, 2010 Version of the Website** |

|  |
| --- |
| **National Anthem Info**  **Notes on the Philippine National Anthem**  **The original Philippine national anthem was composed by Julian Felipe in 1898. The first draft of the anthem underwent a few changes. When the final composition was finished, it was entitled, "Marcha National Filipino." In 1899, a young poet-soldier named Jose Palma wrote a poem entitled, "Filipinas." The words of the poem became the lyrics of anthem. In 1956, the official Filipino version of the anthem ("Lupang Hinirang"), which was a translation of Ildefonso Santos and Julian Cruz Balmaceda, was proclaimed.**  **Lupang Hinirang  Bayang magiliw Perlas ng silanganan, Alab ng puso, Sa dibdib mo'y buhay.  Lupang hinirang Duyan ka ng magiting Sa manlulupig 'Di ka pasisiil.  Sa dagat at bundok Sa simoy at sa langit mong bughaw May dilag ang tula At awit sa paglayang minamahal.  Ang kislap ng watawat mo'y Tagumpay na nagniningning, Ang bituin at araw niya Kailan pa ma'y 'di magdidilim.  Lupa ng araw ng luwalhati't pagsinta Buhay ay langit sa piling mo; Aming ligaya ng 'pag may mang-aapi Ang mamatay ng dahil sa 'yo.** |