

History of the Municipality
of
SIPALAY

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REGION VI
 MUNICIPALITY OF
 SIPALAY
 PROVINCE OF
 NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

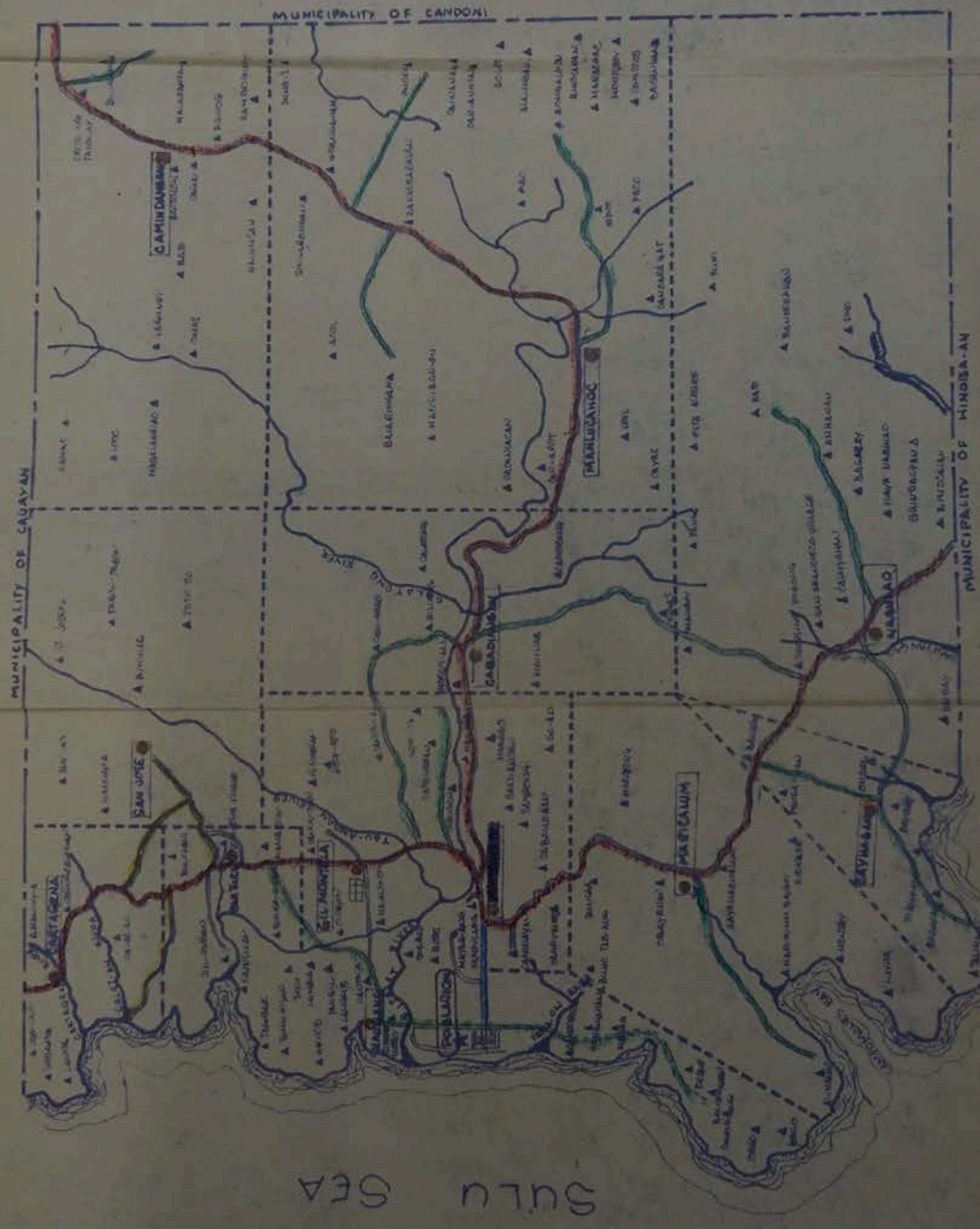


SCALE: 1:80,000

BASE MAP

LEGEND:

- ★ Poblacion
- Bgy. Proper
- ▲ Sitio
- National Road
- Provincial Road
- Municipal Road
- Barangay Road
- Private Road
- River / Creeks
- Mun. Boundary
- - - - - Bgy. Boundary



Sulu Sea

ETHNIC ORIGIN OF SIPALAY

The Municipality of Sipalay was exactly thirty three years old on December 20, 1981. Having been inaugurated on December 20, 1948, this second southern most town of the sugar province has the only copper mine in operation in Negros Island. Since her birth, this municipality has progressed by leaps and bounds with more reserves in the vastness of her mountains. All indications point to a very bright future, but what of the past?

The realities of the present and the possibilities of the future started hundreds of years ago when a group of roving Tumandoks, descendants of the Bornean Datus who migrated to Panay Island, rested under the shade of a big Narra Tree a kilometer away from the mouth of a big river. For months they had been wandering in search of a place wherein they could settle down. It was not their intention to stay permanently but searching glance around convinced them that the place could give them a home.

Before them was a sea teeming with fish; around was a vast level of land covered with virgin forest. They have been looking for such a locale. And so, big trees gave way for clearing for for hunts and vegetations. A new community was in the making. Little did they know that they were founding the future municipality of Sipalay.

The first harvest proved the correctness of their decision to stay. The virgin soil did not fail for the produce was beyond their expectations. They named the little community Naga, in memory of that tree under which they have rested a year ago. The big river was likewise given a name, Can-man-eg, meaning snake-like, due to its zigzag and winding course.

Years, and more years passed; the original number has increased through births and the steady influx of more Tuman-doks from the north. The settlers expanded their clearings and built better houses. Their was a growing community.

The events of the mid-1800's have greatly influenced the march of Naga. The Spanish Army in the Philippines was battling against the Muslim of Mindanao who were harassing the coastal areas of the Visayas. The established might of the government in the Island, was not capable to subdue the Muslim. To augment its forces, the authorities instituted the so-called Kintos System. Young and able-bodied men were called to join the expedition to Mindanao. The Filipinos resented those practices because they were neither paid nor given any indemnities. Thousands refused to join. They hid in the mountains nor escaped to far away places. Others changed their names when apprehended. Those who were arrested were either tortured, flogged or sentenced to death.

In the town of Dumangas, Iloilo, a small group of young men sailed out of the sea, their destination unknown. They

They were fugitives from the Kintos System. One of them was Basilio Debuyan, who, in later years played the most important **role in shaping** the destiny of Sipalay. After weeks of sailing in the open seas, they landed on the shores of Naga, now Sipalay Diotay, one sunny afternoon. The only intention was to replenish their exhausted water supply. After looking for quite a time, the newcomer decided to cash their future with the natives. The reasons for their decision were; the place was very far from the clutches of the Spanish authorities; the soil was very fertile and the natives were friendly and accommodating. They found the facilities suited for a quite and peaceful living.

It did not take long for the natives to find leadership qualities in Basilio Debuyan. He was dynamic and convincing. He gave ready advices for all occasions. He proposed to change the name of Naga to Siparay. It had been the abundance of the cereal in the place. Palay was "paray" in his native dialect in Dumangas. The prefix "si" was commonly used by the nag as an address of respect. The name Siparay stuck for sometime until the Chinese Traders who occasionally visited the place, pronounced it "Sipalay" The name "Sipalay" took its form.

Under the leadership of Basilio Debuyan, the Village slowly took its form. Houses were constructed in rows in newly constructed streets. A church and a plaza were likewise constructed.

A Catholic priest from Iloilo visited once a year. Debuyan became the first Cabeza under the Capitan Mayor at Isic about

52 kms. north. The happy and prosperous condition of the community was shortlived. The Canman-og river, later change to Naga river and presently called Sipalay river, brought destruction thru floods and inundations. Little by little, the place was being swallowed up until the church was washed away by floods. The people decided to transfer the place to a flat land across the river to the north. The selected area was a forest land. It was Debuyan himself who filled down the first narra tree. The former site is now known as Sipalay Diotay. It still stands today a sentimental reminder of a once happy Village.

When the Americans arrived in the Philippines, Sipalay was already a full pledge barrio of the Municipality of Cauayan. Basilio Debuyan became the first Barrio Delegado under the American regime. The barrio was the biggest and one of the most progressive district in the whole municipality. During the early 1920's, a new feeling had surged through the hearts of the inhabitants. It was the feeling of independency, the urge for separation from the mother town. For this purpose, a society, La Lega del Sur was form. Prominent leaders of this society were Severo Alejano, Mariano Mueda Sr., Maximino Calderon, Inocencio Debuyan Sr., Amado Zarragoza, Basilio Debuyan and Alfonso Custioso. The separation movement was the cry of the Southern towns, and Sipalay became its chief advocate. The reasons for the movement are: distance from Sipalay to

the poblacion of Cauayan (54 kms.); no roads connected the two places and there seemed to be no effect on the part of the town officials for the construction of same; the dangers and hardships of the early travels and the much delayed mails (often-times, letters dated a year ago arrived in Sipalay, not by mail-carriers but by policeman whose presence was considered quite an event.) The cry for a creation of a municipality south of Cauayan was not only reasonable but imperative. Nevertheless, representations with the town council proved futile. To remedy the situation, it was agreed that someone from the south must be elected to the council if the movement had to succeed. It must be properly presented. Don Severo Alejano, founder of La Lega del Sur and father of the former Vice-Mayor Jesus P. Alejano volunteered to launch his candidacy for presidency (now mayoralty) of Cauayan. He was lost twice at the polls. Later San Severo Alejano died without seeing the fulfillment of his dream. The desire for separation was temporarily shelved away for lack of a leader.

Fortunately enough, for Sipalay, a new leader appeared in the early 1930's. He was Inocencio Debuyan Sr., the eldest son of the founder. He had a magnetic personality and a good mixer. He was not a good public speaker but an excellent tacticians. He was the first person from the south to be elected Vice-President of Cauayan. During his incumbency, the movement was ably represented in the town Council. Inocencio Debuyan, died at the Provincial Hospital at Sacoled after a few days of illness. His

death was deeply mourned not only by the people of Sipalay but also to those who have learned and respect his dynamic personality. It was indeed a fatal blow to Sipalay. Once again, Sipalay was without a leader.

During World War II, free Negros Governor Alfredo Montelibano Sr., with the advice of Island Commander Salvador Abcede, made Sipalay an emergency town. Appointed Mayor was another Sipalaynon, the late Porferio Garina. He was a fearless executive and thru him the people had demonstrated their capabilities for self-government. His exceptional valor during the critical years of the occupation was the admiration of his superior. His love for country and people brought him to a violent death at the hands of the merciless invaders from the land of the rising sun.

Liberation brought Sipalay back to its pre-war status. In 1946 Benjamin Ramos was appointed Municipal Councilor representing Sipalay. A guerilla officer during the war he showed capabilities of working for Sipalay's self-government. He resolved to revive the separation issue. He presented a resolution for the creation of the Municipality of Sipalay. He encountered rough sailing before the resolution was approved by the town council. In the fight for the approval of the resolution, Ramos was ably assisted by Mr. Agripino Alvañez, also of Sipalay. Ex-Councilor Benjamin Ramos has the distinction of being the author of the resolution for the separation of Sipalay from Cayan. But the trouble were not yet over. Sipalay insisted

on taking the whole of Barrio Cartagena while Cauayan would only agree to take one half of it. After two months of consistent wranglings, both parties were still at odds. The issue reached its critical level that it necessitated the interventions of Governor Rafael Lacson. It was agreed that the two groups would send delegates to a conference in Cauayan to be presided by the Governor himself. The Sipalay delegation to that historic meeting was composed by the following: Agripino Alvarez, Benjamin Ramos, Pascual Tubongbanua, Adriano Madamba, Esmael Gupalor, Leon Villalva, Fred Fleider, Patricio Jamelo, Genaro Alvarez and Robustiano Rivera.

After the series of meetings the question was how to get the official sanction of the separation. Councilor Ramos worked for legislation and in collaboration with the town Congressman Eliseo Limsiaco of the 3rd District of Negros Occidental, a bill to the effect was presented in Congress. Meanwhile, Mr. Agripino Alvarez was contemplating for another move with the same result. He was thinking for the feasibility of Presidential Proclamation. He coordinated with Governor Lacson. The movement rolled on in two different directions. After months of working and waiting, the day of reckoning arrived. A few days after the inauguration of Dumaguete on November 2, 1948, President Elpidio Quirino signed the much awaited proclamation. Meanwhile, the Limsiaco Bill was in its second reading in Congress. For record purposes, Sipalay became a town by Presidential Proclamation. It was inaugurated on December 20, 1948.

The first appointed officials of Sipalay were: Honorable Aripino Alvarez - Mayor; Hon. Fred Pfleider - Vice-Mayor; Hon. Benjamin Ramos; Adriano Madamba, Gorgonio Decena; Clemente Hisona, Tiburcio Atido and Pascual Tubongbanua - Councilors, Mr. Ismael Gupalor - Municipal Secretary, Mr. Eustaquio Debuyan (another son of the founder) - Chief of Police, Mr. Emiliano Guance - Municipal Treasurer.

Honorable Genaro P. Alvarez Sr. succeeded his cousin Aripino Alvarez as Mayor of Sipalay from December 30, 1955 and was in the midst of campaign for a third term on November 12, 1963 elections when he met a tragic death at the hands of an Asasin on November 8, 1963, or barely four (4) days before election day. During his term construction of various irrigation projects was started and completed. Upon his death, he was succeeded by Vice-Mayor Jesus P. Alejano Sr. Then on November 12, 1963, Mercedes Montilla Vda. de Alvarez, widow of the late Genaro P. Alvarez was elected as Municipal Mayor. This gracious, amiable and hard working lady was a former beauty queen (Miss Philippines of 1936 and Queen of the Manila Carnival). She started her term on December 30, 1963 and was a recipient of various awards or Certificate of Appreciation for distinguished leadership from the Philippines House of Leadership, Evaluation and Research, National Economic Council, and Commissions on Elections. She was responsible for the construction of the two barangay high schools situated respectively

at Barangay Gil Montilla and Nabulao. It was during her term that the new Municipal Hall was built through the assistance of Don Jesus S. Cabarrus, Chairman of the Board and President of Marinduque Mining and Industrial Corporation (MMIC). She retired on March 31, 1976. Upon the retirement of Mrs. Alvarez she was succeeded by Vice-Mayor Rodrigo G. Chua. During his administration, Sipalay has taken steps towards development and progress. A new public market was constructed and many others. In the first election after the martial law on January 30, 1980 for local executives, Mayor Rodrigo B. Chua together with SB candidates won by landslides over their opponents.

If the progress attained during the the 33 years of existence be the basis for the future, then it can be safely said that Sipalay is bound for more advancement progress.

G E O G R A P H Y

Location:

The Municipality of Sipalay is the second southern most town of Negros Occidental before the Province of Negros Oriental. It is bounded on the north by the Municipality of Cauayan, on the south by Hinoba-an town, on the east by the Municipality of Candani and on the West by Sulu Sea. It is approximately 178 kilometers south of Bacolod City, the capital of the province. It is located within the range of geographical coordinates $9^{\circ}45'N$ latitude and $122^{\circ}24'E$ longitude.

The municipality has mix topographic features. The northern, southern, and eastern portions of the municipality are mountains or approximately 75% of the entire town. The town is almost mountainous. The western part is low land or plains. All of the urban barangays are located in this flat land area except Barangay IV which is mountainous. The land covers about 75% of the entire town.

Land Area

The total land area of Sipalay is 38,125.00 hectares or 381.25 sq. km. 58.12% or 22,158.508 has comprised forest land its biggest land area. Its agricultural land covers 8,700 has. or 22.82% while its built up areas measures 372.1329 has. or .98%. Its open spaces/grassland comprised 5,875.4339 or 15.41%. Industrial land is 865.99 or 2.27%. Smallest land area is devoted to fishponds which have 152.9388 has. or 0.40%.

Land Use

<u>Land Use</u>	<u>Existing (Has.)</u>	<u>Percent to Total</u>
1. Agricultural Land	8,700.00	22.82
2. Built up Area	372.1329	.98
3. Industrial Land	865.99	2.27
4. Open Space/Grassland	5,875.4399	15.41
5. Forest Land	22,158.506	58.12
6. Fishpond	3,152.9388	.40
T O T A L - - -	38,125.00	100.00

Source: MDS Data

Population:

As of 1980 Census, Sipalay has a total population of 58,754; 29,833 of which are males and 28,919 are females. The main population growth rate with the density of one (1) person per .63 Ha. The table shows the population of the Municipality of Sipalay by Barangays based on May, 1980 Census.

<u>Barangay</u>	<u>Household</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Barangay I (Pob.)	93	263	294	557
2. Barangay II (Pob.)	254	740	686	1,426
3. Barangay III (Pob.)	151	503	455	958
4. Barangay IV (Pob.)	316	914	878	1,792
5. Barangay V (Pob.)	303	831	820	1,651
6. Cabadiangan	444	1,398	1,283	2,591
7. Camindangan	680	1,909	1,825	3,734
8. Canturay	711	2,208	2,004	4,212

<u>Barangay</u>	<u>Household</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
9. Cartagena	437	1,250	1,222	2,472
10. Cayhagan	478	1,829	1,803	3,632
11. Gil Montilla	897	2,924	2,829	5,813
12. Mambaroto	539	1,774	1,819	3,593
13. Manlocahoc	579	1,810	1,746	3,556
14. Maricalum	640	1,821	1,723	3,544
15. Nabulao	829	2,820	2,667	5,487
16. Nauhang	189	578	584	1,162
17. San Jose	1,731	6,351	6,228	12,572
GRAND TOTAL - -	9,271	29,833	28,919	58,752

Migration comes in our Municipality during the demand of Mine Workers either professional, technical and related workers or clerical works - on and off system. Bonafide residents of Sipalay immigrates to Palawan or Mindanao.

POPULATION DENSITY BY BARAGAY

<u>Barangay</u>	<u>Population</u> <u>: By</u> <u>: Barangay</u> <u>:</u>	<u>Density</u> <u>: By</u> <u>: Barangay</u> <u>: (Ha.)</u>	<u>Population</u> <u>: Growth</u> <u>: Rate Per</u> <u>: Year</u>	<u>Rural</u> <u>: Distri-</u> <u>: bution</u> <u>:</u>
1. Barangay I (Pob.)	557	:	3%	Compact
2. Barangay II (Pob.)	1,426	:	3%	-do-
3. Barangay III (Pob.)	958	0.12	3%	-do-
4. Barangay IV (Pob.)	1,792	:	3%	Scattered
5. Barangay V (Pob.)	1,651	:	3%	Compact
6. Capadiangan	2,591	1.19	5.2%	Scattered
7. Camindangan	3,734	1.25	3.4%	Scattered

8.

Barangay	Population By Barangay	Density By Barangay (Ha.)	Population Growth rate Per Year	rural Distri- bution
8. Canturay	4,212	0.19	12.6%	Compact
9. Cartagena	2,472	0.50	3.8%	Scattered
10. Gili Montilla	5,813	0.30	.6%	-do-
11. Cayhagan	3,632	0.23	.7%	-do-
12. Mambaroto	3,593	0.35	.3%	-do-
13. Manlucahoc	3,556	2.26	1.6%	-do-
14. Maricalum	3,544	0.89	2.8%	-do-
15. Nabulao	5,487	1.49	1.3%	-do-
16. Nauhang	1,162	0.81	3.2%	-do-
17. San Jose	12,572	0.24	13.5%	-do-

T O P O G R A P H Y

Slope

The slope characteristics of the town vary from 0.5% level to nearly level in the coastal portion of the town to strongly hilly to mountainous or 18% and over found in the interior part of the municipality.

Mountains and Hills

Three (3) mountains form part of the physical features of the Municipality. These are Canturay, Calatong and Cabadiangan. Canturay mountain is where the mining area of Marinduque Mining and Industrial Corporation (MMIC) is located. Aside from these mountains, there are also hills and ridges. The most prominent among the hills is the Dapdap Hill while the two ridges are Punglo and Datag.

Bodies of Water

Twelve (12) rivers and nine (9) creeks form part of the natural drainage of the municipality. The biggest river is Sipalay River whose source is located somewhere at Datag ridge, and passes through five (5) barangays of the town before it drains out to the sea. Sipalay and Pana-on rivers serves as the natural boundaries of the town proper.

Aside from Sipalay river, there are also small rivers and creeks that serve as water source and other uses of the residents. The other rivers are Calat-an, Dul-ongan, Tao-angan, Cabadiangan, Calatong, Tabanga, Panaon, Maricalum, Nabulao and Bacuyangan.

While the creeks are Talacagay, Dapdap, Binulig, Manlucahoc, Calatong, Cartagena, Lumbia, Bunga-bunga and Owayon.

Climate

The climate of the municipality falls under the first type with the wet season starting from May and up to October and dry season for the rest of the year. The mountain ranges to the town shield it from the northeast moonsoon and part of the trade winds, but the town is prove to southwest moonsoon.

Political Subdivision

Seven (7) barangays composed the entire municipality. (Five (5) barangays are located in the town proper while the rest are scattered in the different parts of the town. Barangay IV however is located four (4) kilometers from the town proper.

The rural barangays are as follows: Cabadiangan, Camindangan, Canturay, Cartagena, Gil Montilla, Mambaroto, Manlucahoc, Maricalum, Nauhang, Nabulao, Cayhagan and San Jose.

Political Subdivision; its area and distance From the Municipal Hall.

Name of Barangay	Land Afea (Has.)	Distance from Municipal Hall
I Urban		
1.1 Barangay I		200 meters
1.2 "		100 meters
1.3 "	825.45	100 meters
1.4 "		4 meters
1.5 "		300 meters

Sub-Total	:	825.45	:
II Rural	:		:
2.1 Brgy. Cabadiangan	:	3,089.25	: 10 kms.
2.2 " Camindangan	:	4,668.60	: 38 kms.
2.3 " Canturay	:	939.25	: 10 kms.
2.4 " Cartagena	:	1,256.40	: 16 kms.
2.5 " Cayhagan	:	982.00	: 15 kms.
2.6 " Gil Montilla	:	1,609.15	: 5 kms.
2.7 " Mambaroto	:	1,221.50	: 2 kms.
2.8 " Manlocahoc	:	8,383.40	: 17 kms.
2.9 " Maricalum	:	3,153.65	: 8 kms.
2.10 " Nauhang	:	810.85	: 2.5 kms.
2.11 " Nabulao	:	8,186.25	: 18 kms.
2.12 " San Jose	:	2,999.25	: 15 kms.
Sub - Total	:	37,299.55	:
Grand - Total	:	38,125.00	:

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Local Men and Women in the Municipality

1. Honorable Basilio Debuyan

History shall record him as the undisputed founder of Sipalay.

2. Honorable Inocencio Debuyan Sr.

He was the oldest son of the general Founder of Sipalay Tio Sencio as he was affectionately address by his constituents, was the undisputed political leader of Sipalay during his life time. For Sipalay to become an independent municipality was has great obsession. He was the first Sipalaynon to be elected as Vice-President (Vice-Mayor) of Cauayan, the mother town of Sipalay in the early 30's.

3. Honorable Porferio S. Garina

During the last global war, this barrio Sipalay was created an emergency town by the Military authorities, and Hon. Porferio S. Garina was appointed as Emergency Mayor. He served well and commendably. It was his hope too, to work for the separation of Sipalay from Cauayan after the war. He died a martyrs death at the hands of the Japanese soldiers somewhere in Bacolod City. His mortal remains are nowhere.

4. Honorable Agripino Alvarez Sr. (1948-1955)

After the war, Sipalay was returned to its pre-war status as a barrio. The fallen torch for an independent town of Sipalay was brought out again by Hon. Agripino Alvarez Sr.

Inspite of the surmountable obstacles and sacrifices, he brought the struggle to a very successful and, culminating on its inauguration on December 20, 1948 and his induction as the first Mayor of Sipalay. He served his people until December 30, 1955. His Death on December 28, 1965 was an inseparable loss. He shall be recorded as "The Father of Sipalay."

5. Honorable Genaro P. Alvarez Sr. (1956-1963)

Honorable Genaro Perez Alvarez Sr. was the second elected Mayor of Sipalay. As the chief executive of Sipalay he had worked so hard for the progress of Sipalay. He was a human dynamo and had never collected his salaries and per diems for personal interests during his entire incumbency. He was a sort of a Philanthropist. He was loved by the people. He started his term on November 30, 1955 and was in the midst of campaign for a third term on the November 12, 1963 election when he met a tragic death at the hands of an assassin on November 8, 1963 or barely four days before election day. His election was on the bag but death stood on the way. His name shall go down as "The Builder of Sipalay."

6. Honorable Mercedes Montilla Vda. de Alvarez (1964-1976)

This gracious, amiable and hard working lady is the third elected Mayor of Sipalay. Taking up the budget for her fallen husband, the late Mayor Genaro P. Alvarez Sr. this former nation beauty queen (Miss Philippines of 1936 and Queen of the Manila Carnaval) won the 1963 Mayoralty Election, taking the place of her husband who was assassinated, in the easiest way without de-

livering a single speech and yet had garnered the largest plurality so far in Sipalay. She started her term on December 30, 1963 and was a recipient of awards and certificates of appreciation for distinguished community leadership from the Philippine House of Leadership Evaluation and Research, National Economic Council and Commission on Elections. She retired as Mayor of Sipalay on March 31, 1976.

7. Honorable Rodrigo G. Chua (1976 - Present)

During the administration of this young and energetic Mayor, Sipalay has took great lap towards development and progress. A new public market was constructed and many others.

Education

The Municipality is dedevided into two (2) public school districts. District I and District II. There are nine (9) complete elementary schools and seven (7) primary schools in District I. The central school is located at poblacion proper which centers to the education needs of Barangay I, II, IV, and V. Barangay IV has its own elementary school. The rest are distributed among the eight (8) Barangays of the municipality under District II. District II on the other hand is composed of 10 complete elementary schools and three (3) primary schools. Its central school is located at Barangay San Jose, one of the five (5) barangays under District II.

There are also two (2) barangay high schools situated at Barangays Gil Montilla and Nabulao respectively. One (1) private secondary school and the college are managed by the Co-

limban Fathers. On the other hand, Nabulao Barangay High School is squatting at the Elementary School site of the said Barangay. As of school year 1981-1982, there are 11,464 enrolled in all primary and elementary levels, 2,510 enrolled at secondary level and 200 are enrolled at the first two (2) years leading to Bachelor of Arts and Secretarial courses in the tertiary level.

Enrolment For The Last Three Year Per
School and Level of Education, 1982

School	Enrolment		
	1979-1980	1980-1981	1981-1982
A. <u>Elementary</u>	:	:	:
District I	: 5,348	: 5,833	: 6,002
District II	: 4,444	: 4,282	: 4,470
B. <u>Secondary</u>	:	:	:
Gil Montilla Barangay	: 381	: 498	: 529
High School	:	:	:
Nabulao Barangay	: 271	: 343	: 169
High School	:	:	:
C. <u>Tertiary</u>	:	:	:
Cabarrus Catholic College	:	:	:
	:	:	:
<u>T O T A L - - - - -</u>	<u>: 12,334</u>	<u>: 12,549</u>	<u>: 11,704</u>

Source: MECS

Gil Montilla Barangay High School

Nabulao Barangay High School

Holy Rosary Academy

Cabarrus Catholic College

There are 273 classrooms in all public and elementary schools; 2 clinics; 2 libraries; 3 administrative offices; 38 comfort rooms and total playground area of 10,000.00 square meters. In the 2 barangay high Schools and one private secondary school, there is only one laboratory; 2 libraries; 3 administrative offices; 6 comfort rooms and a total playground area of 25,000.00 square meters.

The total combined land area of all public and elementary schools is 535,503.05 square meters. The total land area of the two barangay high schools is 30,000.00 square meters, and the land area occupied by the private college at Barangay San Jose is 40,000.00 square meters.

There are 207 teachers in both public primary and elementary grades. 53 teachers in two (2) barangay high schools including the teachers at private high school in the town proper and a total of 69 teachers in the college.

The municipality operates 4 day care centers. One is located at the poblacion proper, and 3 at Barangays Cabadiangan, Cartagena and Cayhagan. Its main responsibility is to provide the education needs of pre-schoolers in the municipality. There are also four TMCH Centers jointly sponsored by Care-Philippines and Marinduque Mining and Industrial Corpo-

ration (MMIC) to uplift ane educational and nutritional status of pre-schoolers located mostly at Barangay San Jose.

Education and Literacy

The three levels of education which are present in the municipality contribute to high literacy rate of the populace.

There are 29 elementary schools, two barangay high schools, one private high school and a private college which offers elementary, high school and the first two collegiate years of Bachelors of Arts and a two year secretarial course.

There are more enrollees in rural schools than of the urban schools in the elementary level. This can be attributed to the strategic locations of elementary schools in the rural barangays.

On the secondary level, there are more enrollees in urban high schools than that of the rural. Although there is only one private high school in the town proper, there is another big private high school in Barangay San Jose, aside from the two barangay high schools.

Contrary to existing situation in other areas of the country, there are more professionals in the rural barangays than in the town proper of the municipality.

Professional Services

In a survey conducted by the MDS early this year, revealed that there are 1,187 professionals working in the town. However, there are also other professionals who practice their profession

outside because of limited opportunities in the town. In some cases they do not go back but rather settled where they find work.

Listed below are the number of professionals to total number of population.

Professionals	Number	Percentage to Total: No. of Professionals	Percentage to Total No. of Pop.
1. Teachers	1,031	86.86	2.0111
2. Nurses	18	1.52	0.0351
3. Doctors	5	0.42	0.0097
4. Midwives	30	2.53	0.0585
5. Engineers	50	4.21	0.0975
6. C.P.A.	3	0.25	0.0058
7. Pharmacists	4	0.34	0.0078
8. Agriculturists	81	0.93	0.0214
9. Dentists	3	0.25	9.0058
10. Medical Technologists	2	0.17	0.0039
11. Nutritionists	1	0.08	0.0019
12. Police	29	2.44	0.0565
T O T A L	1,187	100.00	2.315

CHURCHES AND RELIGION

Like other municipalities, the municipality of Sipalay has different religious sects. Among them are as follows based on Religious Survey in 1970.

<u>Religion</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% to Total</u>
1. Roman Catholic	29,806	85.72%
2. Protestant	1,767	05.08%
3. Iglesia ni Cristo	752	2.16%
4. Aglipayan	1,901	05.47%
5. Other religion	545	01.57%
<hr/>		
T O T A L - - - - -	34,771	100%

The table shows that Roman Catholic dominate among the the many religious sects.

CULTURAL PRACTICES

A. Municipal Fiesta

Being a tradition, the municipality celebrated its annual fiesta every 20th day of December. It is the anniversary date when the municipality was found.

B. Baptismal:

The Roman Catholic baptism is administered by the priest by sprinkling holy water on the baby's forehead with sponsors witnessing the ceremony. Then it is followed by a party or reception in the parents' place or in a restaurant.

To the other religious sects like protestant. Seventh Day Adventist or Iglesia emersion in a river or sea water or t tugmaw is being practice.

C. Courtship/Marriage

When a man desired to marry a woman the "pamalaye" system is still practice. The parents of the man went to the parents of the woman and agreed to what kind of wedding ceremony they will made.

The wedding is performed usually in the respective church of the couple, solemnized by the priest of the Catholic Church, and a paster or preacher in other sects.

To some, simple wedding was performed by a judge or mayor of the town followed by the reception in the bride's residence, first class hotels or restaurants.

D. Birth/Burial Custom

Birth:

Like in some other municipalities, the "Hilot system or Paltera" was called especially in the rural areas where licensed Midwife of the community is far. To those who can afford they call a Doctor or deliver in the hospital.

Burial Custom

It is a custom among the people of the town or community that when someone dies everybody should mourn. A "daguno" is given to the bereaved family in forms of money, goods or services. A black cloth is hang on a visible place to let the

passers know that somebody died in the family. The members of the family worn black clothing to symbolize their mourning.

E. Religious Activities

The Aguinaldo or dawn mass is observed from December 16 to December 24 with the midnight mass. Then christmas is observed by giving fits to their loved ones. The spirit of christmas ended up to the **first** Sunday of January.

May Festival - on the month of May, Flores de Mayor was observed by sending children to church to offer flowers to the Blessed Virgen Mary. At the end of May there is a procession of Santa Cruzan with different Sagallas, Reyna Elena and Reyna de las Flores which participated in the affair.

COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENT

There are two (2) business centers in the municipality, one is located at the town proper while the other is situated at Barangay San Jose.

The commercial establishments in the poblacion are located along the strip of national highway fronting the municipal hall going up to the public market.

The public market at the town proper occupy an area of more than one half (1/2) hectare. It has seventy stalls, divided into 58 wet and 22 dry stalls, and provided with limited power supply and water facilities. The drainage system specially in the Carinderia section is defective. The culverts used in the drainage water is small and could not accommodate the flow which

leads to the flooding of the area. The parking area in front of the public market is usually inundated during the rainy days, because of poor maintenance of drainage system.

On the other hand, the public market at Barangay San Jose occupied an area of about 4,250 sq. m. more or less. It has 222 wet stalls and 5 dry stalls. It has a 24 hour electric supply and water facilities.

It is located at a higher elevation.

TRANSPORTATION

Privately own vehicles serve the transportation needs of the residents in commuting from one place to another. The chief means of transportation is the motorized tricycle numbering 69 units, which the barrio folks used in going to and from the town proper to their respective barangays.

Average travel from the town to Bacolod City is 5-6 hours by means of public utility. This is due to the poor condition of the national highway and zigzagging road leading to the municipality.

One bus company provides service to the town from Bacolod City and to its neighboring towns of Cauayan, Hinoba-an and other places in Negros Island.

TRANSPORTATION INVENTORY

Type	Number	% Total Population
1. Motorized Tricycle	69	30.13
2. Public Utility Jeep	28	12.23
	- 27 -	

TRANSPORTATION INVENTORY

Type	Number	% Total Pupilation
3. Utility Vehicle	132	57.64
Total	229	100.00

COMMUNICATIONS

Telecommunications

There are two (2) telegraph firms operating in the town. The Bureau of Telecommunications holds office at the old municipal building while the Radio Communications of the Philippines, Inc. (RCPI) operates at Barangay San Jose. Notwithstanding its distance from the townproper, RCPI also services the townproper of the nearby barangays.

The post offices serve the mailing needs of the public. The central post office is located at the old municipal building adjacent to the office of the Bureau of Telecommunications. This post office serves as the mail distribution center for all barangays within the town except for Barangay Nabulao which also maintains its own post office. The post office located at Barangay San Jose burned sometime last 1981.

The municipality operates its own PLECS system of communication within the other municipalities in the province.

While the local police force has its own single side band which is used to receive and transmit message from the Provincial Headquarters and other place in Negros Island.

MINERAL RESOURCES

The municipality is endowed with rice mineral resources, both metallic and non-metallic. Of the metallic mineral found in the area, copper comprises the largest bulk with an estimated reserves of 536,900.000 DMT. Next to copper, the only molybdenum deposit in the entire province is found in the locality. Molybdenum is one of the most important of the refractory metals. It is used in the production of alloy steel because of its hardenability. Aside from the two, iron is also found along the coastal area of the town. However, there is available as to its number of deposit.

Soil

There are five (5) classification of soil found in the municipality, namely: San Manuel Fine, Sandy Loam, Faraon Clay, San Manuel Loam, Hydrosal and Abando Sand.

SOIL CLASSIFICATION

Type of Soil	Area (Has.)	Percent To Total Land Area
San Manuel Fine Sandy Loam	3,612.90	9.48
Faraon Clay Steep Phase	28,451.61	74.63
San Manuel Loam	4,415.33	11.58
Hydrosal	983.87	2.58
Obando Sand		
T O T A L - - - - -	38,125.00	100.00

Source: ,DS Data

Agricultural Land Use

Unlike the towns in northern Negros Occidental where sugar is the major crops Sipalay's Agricultural land use is devoted to rice plantation with an area of 3,816.9858 hectares or 43.87%. Cornland is second and occupies an area of 2,000.2686 hectares or 22.99%. 1,989.0056 hectares or 22.86% is devoted to coconut plantation, sugarland is planted to a low 52 hectares or .60%, orchard occupies 788.24 hectares or 9.06% and lastly other crops is 53.50 hectares or .62%.

Among the minor crops, cassava plantation has an area of 50 hectares while banana plantation is devoted to 20 hectares.

AGRICULTURAL LAND USE CLASSIFICATION		
Classification of	No. of Hectares	:Percent to Total
Agricultural Land Use		Agricultural Land
Riceland	3,816.9858	43.87
Corn	2,000.2686	22.99
Coconut	1,989.0056	22.86
Orchard	788.24	9.06
Sugarland	52.00	0.60
Others	53.50	0.62

Source: MDS Data

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Source: MDS Data

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

<u>Leading Agricultural Crop</u>		
<u>Agricultural Products</u>	<u>: Estimated in Hectares</u>	<u>: Estimated Production Year</u>
Rice	3,816.9858	133,289.14 Cavans
Corn	2,000.2686	50,006.72 "
Coconut	1,989.0056	10,859.970 Nuts
Sugar	52.00	3,900 piculs
<hr/>		
<u>T O T A L - - - - - 7,858.2600 :</u>		

Source: MDS Data

Livestock and Poultry

Livestock and Poultry raised in the locality are cattle (500 heads), poultry (190.00 heads) hogs (25,000 heads) goats (1,800 heads), ducks (7,000 heads) and carabao (800 heads). Most of the livestock raised in the town are usually for domestic use. However, livestock supply are still short to meet demands. The same is also true with poultry products.

Land Reform

Since majority of its agricultural land use is devoted to riceland, the municipality is under the land reform program of the Ministry of Agrarian Reform. Riceland in 15 barangays including the five barangays in the poblacion are now covered by operation land transfer (OLT), which involves 71 land owners, 1,036 farm lots with an aggregated area of 1,222.115 has.

COMMERCE

Commercial activities in the municipality are below average considering the limited number of commercial establishments operating in the locality.

There are two commercial centers in the town. One is located at the town proper and the other at Barangay San Jose.

The commercial strip in the town proper are found within the vicinity of the public market and along the one-half km. radius of the national highway fronting the new municipal building. The location of most commercial enterprise in the town proper are easily reached and accessible to the buying public. They have adequate facilities like power and water services.

While in Barangay San Jose, Commercial activities are centralized into its commercial district located within the residential arwa where another public market is located. This is because the MMIC owns the land within its periphery.

As of 1981, there is a total of 751 commercial establishments in the town, broken into four (4) categories: Commercial which has the biggest number of 437, manufacturing counts 38; those belonging to service group totals 272 and the last category, recreation has the lowest number 4.

The commercial activity in the barangays are limited to small sari-sari store which are located within the residential

houses. However some barangays observed market day every Sunday in make shift markets in the barangay proper.

INDUSTRY

The municipality of Sipalay is endowed with the rich mineral resources that can be tapped as a major component of an industrial activity. Along side with this, its human resources possessed a high degree of literacy that can be trained to man sophisticated machines of any industrial concern. Its total population of 51,264, about 44,23% or 22,674 contribute its labor force. This means that almost one half of the entire population is available for work.

There are two (2) major industries present in the municipality. Mining and fishing industry. However, there is no cottage industry existing in the town. Aside from the two (2) mentioned above, a logging company also operates in the vicinity.

The mining company mines its copper resources. The deposits found in the locality are reputed to be the biggest in the province and the mining complex is the second biggest in South east Asia. The copper being extracted from the deposit are exported abroad for reprocessing. The company employed about 2,522 employees which was a total of 15,132 dependents.

Notwithstanding the job opportunities and other benefits offered by the mining company, the problem of environmental pollution has reached a critical stage for the municipality. Efforts to solve this problems has been very slow.

On the other hand, the fishing industry provides income to more than 789 fishermen. The municipality faces Sulu sea, one of the richest fishing ground in the country,

The industry however lack support facilities which are needed by strengthening it. These are the port and an ice plant and cold storage.

TOURISM

The municipality has many attractive and beautiful areas which can attract potential tourists. Among these are: (1) Compomanes Bay which boast of a cove could serve as natural harbor; (2) its white beaches that lies along the coastal areas especially found in Cartagena Beach; (3) wild life with gold panning as its major attractions and many others. However these spots are undeveloped and many no facilities to serve the needs of tourists.

Although there are lodging houses for transient visitors these are not suitable to meet the demands of tourists. Adding to the above-mentioned, the limited power service and steady supply of water compounded the problem. Another major problem affecting the sector is the poor road condition that link to these areas.

HEALTH

As in the case of other municipality, in the country, the responsibility of serving the health needs of the populace in the town belongs to the Ministry of Health through its Rural

Health Unit (RHU) which maintains an office in a building adjacent to the old municipal hall opposite the new one.

The building also houses the puericulture center which is managed by its board of director with financial support from both the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and the local government.

There are 12 health stations stationed in the 12 barangays of the municipality to bring medical services at grassroots level.

The main rural health unit is headed by a rural health physician and assisted by two (2) public health nurses, 1 sanitary inspector who is on study leave, a laboratory aide, a medical secretary an attendant and a janitor. The health stations are managed by midwives which are paid by the municipal government.

There is also a part time dentist who hold office at the Genaro P. Alvarez Elem. School at the poblacion. A newly graduate of medicine is likewise assigned to the town for the required rural service.

The municipality bought a new ambulance but does not have any emergency clinic or hospitals.

To augment the shortage of public health personnel specially doctors, a former municipal health officer holds clinic at the town proper and treats medical cases. There is a private dentist who also practices at the town proper.

On the other hand, MMMIC maintains a hospital with 25 bed capacity. It has its own compliment of medical personnel which

provides services to employees of the mining company.

Occasionally, it also treats emergency cases for non-employees.

NUTRITION

The nutrition program of the municipality shows remarkable achievements.

In 1981 "Operation Timbang" shows the following nutrition profile of children under 0-6 years age bracket. First degree of malnourish children number about 2,047, the second degree has 2,409, the third degree with 255. The total number of children weighed is 10,971. This means that the remaining number of children of 6,172 are normal as far as nutrition is concerned.

Because of this, the municipality gained first prize in the province wide nutrition program conducted yearly.

To sustain the nutrition program at the grassroot level, the local government maintains a nutrition office headed by a full time nutritionist. It also maintains a nutrition house which is used during supplemental feeding.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Sports and recreation activities in the municipality are limited. This is due to the absence of sports and recreation facilities in the town.

Only five barangays including Barangay I in the town proper have playgrounds. But these playgrounds are mostly multi-purpose pavement constructed by the barangay council. Sometimes these multi-purpose pavements are used for different reasons

such as drying palay or copra and/or dance hall during fiestas or other social occasions. Even the school playgrounds are not standardized to meet the requirement of athletic competitions.

The municipality however have an open their auditorium located near the old municipal building where social or public functions are held and also double as basketball court.

There is an old cockpit located at the outskirts of the townproper where men usually spend their afternoon house specially during Sundays. The cockpit is in dilapidated condition and needs immediately repair to ensure the safety.

Employees of MMIC on the other hand enjoys sports facilities provided by the mines management. These include basketball, tennis, pelota court and a bowling center, and also a gymnasium for their use. Almost every year, the company sponsor competition among its employees to encourage athletic awareness among them.

FAMILY PLANNING

The puericulture center at the poblacion serves as the center of activity health stations in the dissemination of the program. However, the tasks of implementing and sustaining effective family planning services fall under the responsibility of the Population Officer (DPO) and assisted by three (3) full time outreach workers (FTOW).

PEACE AND ORDER

Maintenance of peace and order in the municipality is the

sole responsibility of the Integrated National Police (INP). It is assisted by selected members of the Civilian Home Defense Force (CHDF). Barangay tanods, however are no longer active in maintaining peace and order in the different barangays. At present, there are 28 members of the police force serving the entire population. While the fire services has only one personnel serving the some number of population.

Aside from their headquarters located at the old municipal building, the INP also maintain an outpost at sitio Vista Alegre in Barangay Nabulao, site of the gold panning area and at Barangay San Jose where mining and quarrying of Marinduque Mining and Industrial Corporation (MMIC) is located. MMIC, however, operates its own security force to enforce its rules and regulations within the property. At present there are 104 members of its security force.

The local INP use one Toyota Tamaraw Jeep in patrolling the entire jurisdiction of the town. It also maintains one pair of single-side band to communicate with provincial headquarters and other INP units in the different municipalities of the province.

On the other hand the fire service has one fire truck with two portable rabbit fire pump. Its six suction hoses are all dilapidated and need immediate replacement.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Delivery of social welfare services in the municipality is being handled by the Ministry of Social Services and Development

(MSSD), although its effect remains to be felt by the residents.

There is no permanent social worker assigned in the locality since 1978. Programs undertaken in the town by the MSSD, were handled by two (2) welfare aides, one employed by the MSSD itself and the other by the municipal government.

As of 1981, the major program being implemented by the ministry is the Self-Employment Assistance Program (SEAP) which provides seed capital for the economically needy family heads and out-of-school youth (OSY) to finance income generating livelihood projects: As of last year, the agency granted a loan amounting to 5,340.00 to some 19 family clients. Aside from SEAP, the ministry is also involved in the supplemental feeding in four day care centers which the local government operates. MSSD provides nutritional feeding to pre-schoolers.

Aside from MSSD, there are also private entities who are engage in social services like the Marinduque Mining and Industrial Corporation (MMIC) who maintains the rural improvement clubs located at Barangay San Jose and the religious group lie the Roman Catholic Churchs, Alay Kapawa, the Seventh Day Advebtist Mothers' Class.

POWER AND LIGHT

The municipality operates its own electric plant. Records of the MDS reveal that a very small number of houses in the town-proper is served by electricity. There are a total number of 349 houses served out of 1,117 houses representing a low percen-

tage of 31.24%.

A portion of Barangay Membaroto is also served by power which start operating every 6:00 o'clock up to 11:00 o'clock in the evening.

The mining company also has its own power plant which gives electricity to households in three (3) barangays namely: San Jose, Canturay, and Cartagena. A total of 1,477 households are being provided by the plant.

The rest of the households in the municipality depend on kerosene as source of their lighting needs.

It is expected that the "egros occidental Electric Cooperative, or NOCECO will energize the townproper by the end of this year.

LABOR FORCE

In the different categorized workers in the municipality, agricultural workers comprise the majority, 12,992 or 25,34%.

Professionals, Craftsmen, production workers and skilled laborers are other classification. However, there are no records indicating its breakdown.

DEPENDENCY RATIO

Of the total population of 51,264 in 1980, 32,028 or 62.48% represents the economically active persons while 19,236 or 37.52% comprises the dependents. The 1980 population date reveals that all persons have 10 years number to 32,920. The dependency ratio is rather low. For everyone employed 1.05 is dependent.

CHARACTERISTICS OF LABOR FORCE

As could be gleaned from population records, the 10-14 and 15 to 19 age groups have the greatest number of labor force than any other age division. This means that 13,988 or 40.86% of the labor force come from 10 to 14 and 15 to 19 ranges. When all persons whose ages range from 10 to 34 are put together, they already constitute more than one half of the total number of labor force in the municipality, that is 22,674 or 44.23%. The labor force of Sipalay is relatively young. The labor force of age groups 34 to 64 totals to 12,045 or 23.50%. The labor force of age groups 65 years and above is 892 or 1.74%.