

Geographic Location

Three towns in Zambales were named after Governor General. Thus, San Narciso was named after Narciso Claveria, San Antonio after Antonio Blanco and San Marcelino after Marcelino Ora. But when Uguit became Castillejos, the Governor General was Rafael De Enchague; so, it must have been named after another great man.

In the Spanish Moroccan War of 1859-1860, a famous battle took place on a valley called Castillejos, thru which Spanish Army was to pass in its drive toward the Moroccan Capital, General Juan S. Primo Prats was in command of the Spanish Forces, ordered a regiment to occupy a certain position; and hardly had they put down their knapsack on the ground and commended firing when the enemy was upon them. The attack was forceful that the Spaniards were pushed back leaving their knapsacks behind. Upon seeing what happened, General Primo seized the flag of the regiment from the color bearer and shouted.

"En equallas mochillas esta vuestro honor; venid a rescatario o voy a, pror entre los moros con vuestra bandera" (In those knapsacks lied your honor; come and recapture them of I will die among the moros with own flag.)

The soldiers, galvanized and into action, charged the moros, and wrestled the lost territory. The Battle, which lasted the whole January 1, 1860 cost the 9,000 Spaniards 672 dead against the 2,000 killed of the 22,000 enemy. The victory was so glorious to the Spaniards that a famous musical piece was made called "Batavia de Castillejos", and General Juan Primo y Prats was made Marques delos Castillejos, the noble of first rank.

Two years, ten months and twenty-three days after leaving his elevation as Marques, the town of Uguit took on its present name Castillejos.

Political Subdivision

The Municipality of Castillejos is subdivided into fourteen (14) barangays. Barangay Looc is the farthest barangay with the distance of 7.0 kms from the town proper while Barangay San Juan lies within the heart of the Poblacion.

Among the barangays in the municipality, San Pablo and Looc are the largest with 11,037.94 hectares and 2,040.23 hectares respectively. The smallest is Barangay San Roque with a land area of only 22.54 hectares.

Topography and Land Features

Castillejos is situated in a relatively flat terrain especially in the Poblacion area. This slowly becomes hilly as the land proceeds towards the mountainous area. The land feature and the total land area per barangay is as follows:

Barangay	Land Feature	Land Area (in Has.)
01. Balaybay	Plain, Hilly	1,531.97
02. Buenavista	Plain	360.24
03. Del Pilar	Plain	167.01
04. Looc	Plain, Hilly	2,040.23
05. Magsaysay	Plain	118.60
06. Nagbayan	Plain, Hilly	716.67
08. San Agustin	Plain	554.40
09. San Jose	Plain	194.88
10. San Juan	Plain	68.65
11. San Nicolas	Plain	217.11
12. San Pablo	Plain	11,037.94
13. San Roque	Plain	22.54
14. Sta. Maria	Plain	29.83

Climate and Rainfall

The climate in Castillejos is characterized by two pronounced seasons: the dry and the wet seasons. The dry season occurs in January to April. However, from the month of May rain starts to fall gradually increasing until August, with typhoons. Rainy season gradually decreases until December.

Soil Characteristics/Classifications

Castillejos has four types of soil. The Angeles fine sand which is suitable for lowland rice, vegetables, sugarcane and root crops, is about 60% of the total land area and lies in the Western portion of the town; the Quingua silt loam on the Northern Eastern portion, is around 31%, this is also suitable for lowland and upland rice, vegetable and fruit trees; Antipolo clay is about 10%, lies on the Eastern portion, suitable also for lowland and upland rice and fruit trees; and the mountain soils undifferentiated this compromise the outerrmost or the easternmost part of the municipality, making 10% of its total land area, these are rough soils and mountains are mostly covered with forest, though in some places the land is utilized for upland rice.

Agriculture

● Farming

The total land area of Castillejos covers an area of 17,744 hectares. Out of this, an approximate area of 3,894.44 hectares or 21.95% is devoted to agriculture. The agricultural land area is utilized for planting

temporary crops (rice, corn, vegetables, root crops, banana & dragon fruit), permanent crops (fruit trees), inland resources (fishery), livestock and poultry area (commercial), build-up area and others. An area of 1,729.72 hectares is mainly devoted for rice production of which 1,056.40 hectares are irrigated. The rest are rainfed and uplands. These non-irrigated ricelands are those that cannot easily take advantage of the irrigation program of the government. Root crops such as sweet potato and cassava are the major agricultural product of the municipality which occupies a land area of 607 hectares and 14.75 hectares respectively. Fast growing agricultural area in the municipality which occupy mostly gently sloping land are the fruit trees plantation or orchard.

● **Fishing**

The fish requirement of Castillejos is source out from its fresh water through the Pamatawan River and fishponds which are approximately 7.72 hectares. Most of those fishponds are located in Barangay Looc and San Agustin. The main fresh water species are tilapia, mudfish, catfish and others

● **Livestock and Poultry**

One promising activity in the place is livestock and poultry raising. At present, there are three (3) poultry producers in the municipality while on hog raising, there are five (5) piggery farms. Others are small growers and backyard raisers who also contribute to the production and supply of the livestock and poultry raising activities.

● **Forestry**

Castillejos has a forest area of 12,817.19 hectares of which are forestland, timberland and public forest. Hardwood forest species such as narra, maligpaho, calantas, apitong, tanguile and guijo are abundant in the mountaneous portion of Castillejos, specifically in Sitio Canaynayan, Barangays San Pablo, Looc and San Agustin. These forested areas also yield minor products such as bamboo, rattan, jungle vines and cogon.

Commerce and Trade

The major area for the exchange of goods and services is in the public market, which is located in Poblacion, the site is situated about 20 meters away from the Municipal Hall.

The number of commercial establishments in the municipality is 1,660. These include marketing outlets, lending institutions, restaurants, furniture shop, sari-sari stores and many others. Sari-sari stores with a total number of 477 constitute the predominant form of trading. They provide the day-to-day livelihood of the immediate neighborhood.

At present, the Banco De Oro Unibank Inc. is the only commercial bank in the locality. Zambales Bank,

GM Bank and Producers Bank are rural banks. The eight (8) micro-finance business activities are ASA Philippines Foundation Inc., Fundline Finance Corporation, JJB Home Bay Credit Solutions Corporation, M.E Fast Loan Lending Corporation, Pagasa Philippines Lending Company, Inc., ARDCI NGO Group Incorporated, CARD Inc. and Kazama Grameen Inc.

Industry

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Raw material and manpower resources are no problem to the sector since they are locally available. The sector has so far been lucky to have the presence of a rural banks and cooperatives which provide financing services.

Land and Forest Resources

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Tourist Spots, Destinations, and Festivals

Main tourist destination in the municipality is the Ramon Magsaysay Ancestral House at Barangay Sta. Maria. Other tourist destinations are Looc Lake and Carmelites Church and Monastery both situated at

Barangay Looc.

Another tourist attraction is the "Cenaculo", an annual commemoration of the Death and Passion of Jesus Christ during Holy Week.

Population

Based on Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) Census 2015, Castillejos has a total population of 64,841 with 697 population density (persons per square kilometer) and the most densely populated municipality in Zambales. Castillejos is the second most populous municipality in Zambales next to Subic as the first with total population of 104,771 and Sta. Cruz as the third with 58,151 total population. Barangay San Pablo is the number three most populous barangay in Zambales with a total population of 11,579. Castillejos has a total land area of 92.99 (square kilometer) based on Land Management Bureau.

With 64,841 total population, 30,076 are Males and 34,765 are Females, Castillejos has 17, 230 households, 28,796 registered voters and 91 clustered precincts. Their major spoken dialects being Tagalog and Ilocano.

Religion

Religion	Percentage
Roman Catholics	80.20%
Iglesia ni Christo	6.78%
Protestants	2.32%
Other Christian Religions	7.46%
Islam	0.40%
Others	2.81%

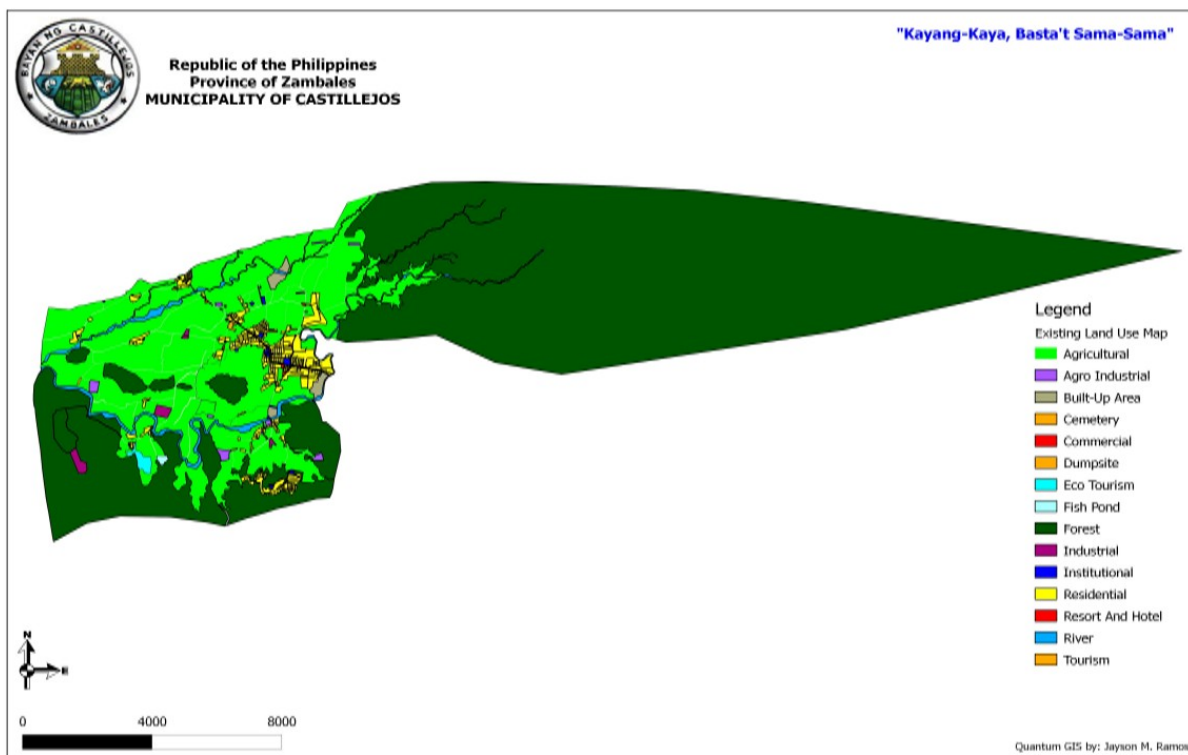
Indigenous People/Indigenous Cultural Communities

There are a total of 1,600 Indigenous People in Castillejos, these are the Aetas living in several Barangays:

Location	Population
Brgy. San Pablo	1090
Brgy. Balaybay	475
Brgy. Looc	35

Existing Land Use

Category	Land Area (in Has.)
Tourisim	0.14
Fish Pond	7.72
Eco Tourism	29.54
Dumpsite	1.62
Agricultural	3894.44
Agro-industrial	50.77
Built-up Area	47.97
Cemetery	3.89
Commercial	22.15
Forest	12,817.19
Industrial	42.22
Institutional	23.90
Residential	425.48
Open space	123.78
River	253.19
Total	17,744.00



Himno Castillejos

Isang Dakilang Bayang Mahal

Sa atin ay bigay ng Maykapal

Lupa at lahing ikararangal
Noon ngayon magpakaylanman.

Ikaw at ako lahi ay iisa
Sa Castillejos halina
Kayang-kaya kapag sama-sama
Uunlad at giginhawa.

Ang bayan ni Ramon Magsaysay
Itangi at mahaling tunay
Labing-apat Ligang Barangay
Pinag-isa tungo sa tagumpay.

Edukasyon ating linangin
Kalusuga'y pagyamanin
Pagsasaka payabungin
Itanghal sariling atin.

Sa bayan kong minumutya
Mga ngiting nakahahalina
Bukid ilog lawang kay ganda
Sa Castillejos makikita.

Ang bayan kong sinisinta
Ang 'yong ganda'y nagbibigay sigla
Kayang-kaya basta't sama-sama
Ikaw ako tayo magkaisa
Kayang-kaya basta't sama-sama
Ikaw ako tayo magkaisa.

Lyricist: Rogelio I. Besarra

Composer: Maru B. Daria