

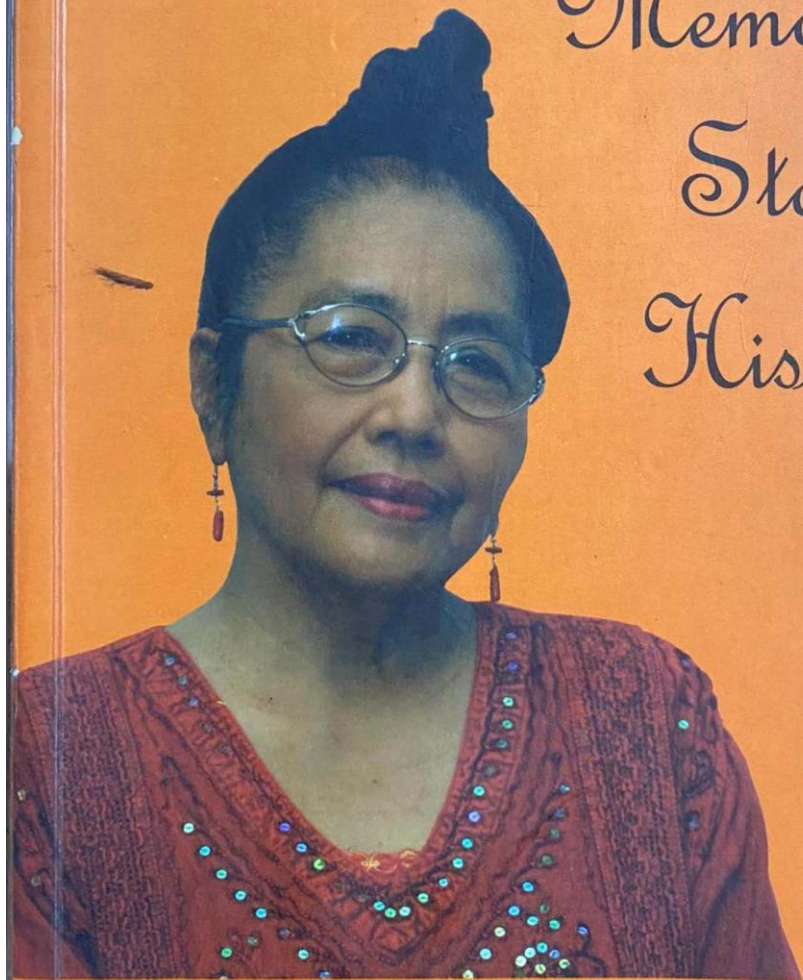
CUYAPO

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Memories

Stories

History



About Cuyapo

What is it about Cuyapo that has enthralled and enchanted me?

Before I say “let me count the ways” to paraphrase the English poet Elizabeth Barret Browning, let me run down snatches of profile and demographic data of my hometown from the municipality’s “blue book” or five year development plan 2008-2012.

Cuyapo was once a barrio of Rosales, Pangasinan. Rosales was then part of Nueva Ecija. Cuyapo became a full-fledged municipality on 29 October 1859.

By 1901, during the American occupation of the Philippines, Rosales, along with other towns of Nueva Ecija such as Balungao, Umingan and San Quintin, was separated from Nueva Ecija and became part of Pangasinan.

As it is Cuyapo is bounded by the province of Tarlac to the west, and the province of Pangasinan to the north. Closest cities to it, with an average distance of 45 kilometers, are Cabanatuan, Urdaneta and Tarlac.

Currently Cuyapo covers 18,983 hectares of land, divided into 51 barangays, and by 2006 has a population of 56,449. The number is expected to increase to about 65,000 in 2015. The population in the rural barangays is about six times larger than the urban barangays’, although the latter are more densely populated. Almost 60 percent of the population is young, and more females than males reside in the municipality.

The large majority speaks Ilocano. But most Cuyapenos speak more than one dialect. Literacy rate is high (over 97 percent) and the produc-

Cuyapo is in the Heart!

Cuyapo, I look at you and you beg me to stay. I could not refuse.

You have made me a prisoner of your beauty.

Your attributes include the grandeur of Mt. Bulaylay,

The wonders of nature, the chirping of the birds, the color of the gumamela, the smell of camia, rosal and sampaguita;

I have chosen to leave you many times but I keep on coming back!

Many battles have been won because you're always there for me.

It is ironic though that you are there and I'm here.

In my twilight years, I'll share what little I have to make you shine and alive.

Education is the only thing that will stay. I give you childcare centers, books, scholarships, cash grants, equipment such as drum sets and computers, places, fountains, stage, gates, fences, ecology nooks, scholarship grants, educational assistance, and many others, that will stay forever in your brain and no one could ever take it from you.

The comforts in Seattle, Valenzuela and condo at Roxas Blvd. are many but you offer me something more fulfilling,

The familiar neighborhood, and trees that still bear fruits,

During my retirement years that money could not buy. I could not say no.

The familiar roads, the cemetery, the barangays, and the river that have dried up;

Cuyapo you'll still be there when I'm gone. The years from birth to 1945 were years full of physical presence,
You have engulfed me, you had suffocated me;
In between is flirting with Caloocan City, then Valenzuela City and Manila but still I visit you, while I try to escape from success and fame.

1968 was Seattle's time, a rising star I became

But you haunted me

Until CUSA was born in 1989.

Cuyapo, you are smiling, you're proud of me but you never told me so;

Hence, the time is now to pay you back—

not asking for anything, nor waiting for anyone—

I'll give you what little I could, all in the name of my father, the late Councilor Bartolome R. Ysmael, under one focus—

EDUCATION!!

Now is my turn for vengeance for I'll never let you go.

Thank you!!

THE FAMILY THAT CARES

Family of "Itay" Bartolome R. Ysmael whose hearts will stay forever in Cuyapo

Dorothy dela Cruz Ysmael

Gloria Lee Christopher (Pat) Adams Jr. (deceased)

Lauren Ysmael and Sonny Divina

Myrna Ysmael and Louie Victoriano

Jun Ysmael, Emman Ysmael, and LC Adams

Grandchildren

Greatgrandchildren

Special Relationships and Relatives

tive sector is about 60 percent of the population. Most of the labor force is deemed employed inside and outside the municipality by 2000.

Cuyapo has pronounced dry and wet seasons. The two mountains located within it poses no threat to soil erosion, though erosion runs moderately through the slopes of the mountains when it rains.

People's livelihood

Much of the land area is devoted to agriculture with lesser hectares devoted to pastureland. Hence, farmers and farm workers make up most of the population. About 10,000 hectares of land is covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program which is almost fully accomplished by 2006 according to the Municipal Agrarian Reform Office.

As to crops, rice is still number one, followed by corn, then vegetables such as squash, ampalaya, mungo, pepper, tomato and pole sitaw especially during summer. The municipality has also gone into high-value commercial crops that include onion, garlic and cassava. Mango trees also abound.

Irrigation and fishery development has augured well for the municipality. There are communal fishponds that get their source of water from Paitan Lake. People also benefit from a year-round catch of fish from natural bodies of water.

Apparently, market for farm products is never a problem. There are traders exclusively engaged in palay buying. Some rice millers also directly purchase from rice farmers during harvest. Vegetables and fruits go to the local public market but some are sold to outside traders. Unfortunately, to the detriment of farmers, it is not market forces that dictate the price but the collective "fixing" of traders and millers. The absence of post-harvest facilities and transportation constraints force farmers to further lower prices.

When it comes to business, there are some 500 registered enterprises, but more than half are sari-sari stores. A large measure of income (P1.7 million annually) for local government comes from the public market and the slaughterhouse. Two rural banks also operate in the municipality apart from the Land Bank of the Philippines, though based in Guimba, Nueva Ecija, that services Cuyapo.

The Cuyapenos also go for financing and credit needs with other banks and microfinance institutions outside the municipality. The "Bombays" or Indian nationals engaged in small credit remain a common sight.

Cuyapo is no tourist-destination yet as it looks plain and simple. Nothing much is interesting except for the Mabini Shrine with a historical marker that notes the capture in Cuyapo of Apolinario Mabini ("the Sublime Patalytic") by the Americans in 1899. But the green and forest areas of Mount Bulaylay and Mount Bankay, plus clean waters in remote barangays, are potential scenic spots. Cuyapo may just be the right place for those who love nature.

Modern ways

The total length of Cuyapo's roads extends to 103.7 kilometers. Over the years roads have been paved from concrete to asphalt to gravel and earth. Identified by their location are 25 bridges that were put up, many of which have stood the test of time while some already needing repairs or restoration.

Water system especially for irrigation remains a standing problem. The town is elevated and a little higher than the areas serviced by dams in the province. Other barangays depend on small water reservoirs and farms on private deep wells ran on diesel engines especially during summer.

Some areas also experience flooding which is due mainly to the lack or inadequacy of canals and eroded slopes of natural waterways. Flood control or prevention is undertaken by the local government with two excavators and dump trucks on standby to dredge silted waterways.

As to power supply, all barangays are energized by power coming from neighboring Tarlac. Some 82 percent of the households have service connections already.

Telecommunications for landline phones is provided by Digitel, but mobile phone services by Globe and Smart are widely used. The Philippine Long Distance Company (PLDT) has opened wireless phone services though on a limited scale than regular lines.

A number of computer shops has also sprouted in the town proper. Internet service is thus available which also extends to private computers in homes with NDD (National Direct Distance).

Even as fax machines are already being used by the local government and other businesses, the old reliable telegram and telegraphic transfer still operate in the municipality. There is a telecommunication office under the Department of Transportation and Communication in the municipality with a lone telecom officer.

The local fire station has one fire truck and seven firefighters ready for emergencies.

Special bodies or councils are also in place whenever situations require intervention. These councils include those on local peace and order, disaster coordination and such protection programs on women and children, integrated community public safety and disaster risk management.

All 51 barangays have organized their Barangay Tanod to take charge of peace and order in their own communities.

There it is, my Cuyapo. Whether progress is slow or not, there is still no place like home. From my perspective, everything's definitely looking up for my hometown. And after leading a productive, fascinating, charming, comfortable and elegant life, I began to think more about what I could do for Cuyapo.

With my age, I need to slow down and, yes, slow down more and more. But with my remaining years, I hope to finally come roosting in this place, embraced by the warmth of my townmates, the memories of the old, and the passion that only the new, the young and the next generations can offer Cuyapo.

Brief Description

Cuyapo, recently named a first class municipality in 2005, derived its name from a kind of water plant that bears flowers, which is locally known as Lulluan, Kiapo or Quiapo (*Pisita Stratiocis*, Linn.).

Cuyapo is situated 54 kilometers north of the provincial government of Cabanatuan City, 164 kilometers north of Manila passing through Paniqui, Tarlac, 178 kilometers passing through Cabanatuan City, and 98 kilometers south of Baguio City. It is bounded by the municipalities of Guimba, Talugtug and Nampicuan of Nueva Ecija, Umingan, Rosales of Pangasinan; and San Miguel of Tarlac. Cuyapo became a municipality on 29 October 1859 (almost 158 years ago.)

The municipality covers a total land area of 18,983,000 hectares spread out in 15 barangays or barrios, seven (7) of which are districts within the town proper occupying an aggregate area of 182,353 hectares. Among the 44 [and more] rural barangays, the largest land area is Barangay Baloy which is 18 kilometers from the town proper. CUSA (Cuyapenos in Seattle, USA) members mostly hail from the town proper and Barangay Tagtagumbao.

The population of the municipality as per the 1995 Census of Population and Housing rose to 49,791 from 43,103 in 1990, an increase of 6,688 or 15.52%. There are a total of 10,506 household. At present, the bulk of the population is concentrated in the rural areas (84.54%). The municipality's population is predominantly rural and agricultural being the main economic activity.