**Abakada**

The **ABAKADA NG BATAAN** was the “beginning reading book” for the children of Bataan after its publication in 1951. It was the project of the Provincial Government of Bataan during the administration of former Governor Emilio Ma. Naval. The provincial government spent P5,000.00 for the first edition of the book. It was distributed to all elementary schools in the province and became the standard learning and reading material for all Grade One pupils starting in June 1952.

Felisa Baens, an elementary teacher and native of Orani, Bataan, wrote the Abakada ng Bataan.

The book remained as the mandatory instructional book throughout the province until the 1970s. From then on, several modern and more effective reading materials were used by elementary teachers in place of the Abakada.

Besides writing books and teaching, Felisa Baens also started a high school in Orani in 1925 with Arcangel dela Fuente as its first teacher.

**Acacia Tree**

Orion is famous for its century-old church, the St. Michael The Archangel Parish, which was built by Dominican friars sometime in 1680s. The said church was partially damaged by an earthquake in 1852 and reconstruction was started by Frs. Ramon Rodriguez, Andres Chaveli and Pedro Rodriguez who were assigned in succession as parish priests of Orion.

It was during this period that the front lawn of the church was planted with four acacia trees primarily to mark the location of the church. Former Manila Archbishop Gregorio M. Martinez, a renowned tree-lover, ordered the planting of acacia trees in front of all Roman Catholic churches in the Philippines starting in 1874. To him, acacia tree symbolizes “long life” and “strength.”

Unfortunately, none of the four acacia trees planted in front of the Orion church survived the destructive work of the elements and the carelessness of man. During the early stages of World War II, two trees suffered slightly from incendiary bombs dropped by Japanese warplanes in the vicinity of the church. The two other trees were severely damaged during the Liberation period as American forces used their artilleries against Japanese soldiers posted along the Orion (San Vicente) River. As a final blow, the widening of the street fronting the church during Mayor Gabriel L. Manrique’s administration necessitated the uprooting of the two surviving acacia trees.

As far as other churches in Bataan are concerned, Pilar has two century-old acacia trees in front of the Nuestra Senora del Pilar Church. Abucay has one, located at the entrance of Barangay Laon.
AETAS in Bataan were believed to have migrated from Asia to the Philippines by using former land bridges some 12,000 to 15,000 years ago. These people are small, about four feet tall, black-skinned with kinky hair, round eyes and flat noses. They lived in caves, ate raw food and wore skimpy clothing. Slowly, these “Ita” learned to gather wild fruits and edible roots, fish and hunt with their crude implements. They had no fixed homes and wandered from place to place in search for food.

There is an Aeta community in Orion. The indigenous people occupied an area of about 32 hectares in Sitio Bayan-bayan (also called Pita), a part of Barangays Bilolo and Gen. Lim.

Rogelio Valerio Salonga is the current tribal leader of some 28 families in Pita. He is the son of Domingo Salonga, a.k.a. Idon, and Liwayway. Idon, a well-known tribal leader and a maraksman, acted as point man of the guerilla forces against the Japanese during the war.

There is an Entrepreneur Volunteer Assistance Program (EVA) school for the Aetas in Bayan-bayan. The school began in 2001 with two teachers in a makeshift building. The Rotary Club of Orion donated the first concrete building for the school. The EVA was responsible for the completion of the school. At present, SY 2005-2006, there are 48 Aetas under four regular teachers.

Two Aeta women, Gina Valenton and Perlita Salonga, had complete primary education and finished Midwifery course in Balanga. They are currently assigned in the said resettlement.
AGRICULTURE is one of the important sub-sectors of Orion’s economy. This is evident in both land-based agriculture and fishery activities in the municipality. Land-based agriculture is mostly concentrated on farming. Rice is the primary product while permanent and commercial crops like mangoes, bananas and other kinds of fruits come second.

Approximately 3,210 hectares of land of Orion are devoted to land-based agriculture.

Farming is the dominant occupation of the residents in nearly all barangays in Orion and even in upland areas like General Lim, Bilolo, Sabatan and Daan Pare. This cluster of four barangays under the Agrarian Reform Communities of Orion (ARCO) has a total land area of 5,325.76 hectares, or 81 percent of the town’s total land area.

In 2004, the riceland output of these four barangays reached 3,970 metric tons per hectare. It was equivalent to 43 percent of the municipal total riceland output.

There are about 465 farmers engaged in mango production in the ARCO area. The average size of mango farm is five hectares and is planted with an average of 24 mango trees yielding 25 kilos per tree. All harvested mango fruits are sold and converted to cash. They are sold locally or exported to neighboring towns and provinces.

Based on an ARC study, a hectare of farmland planted to 40 mango trees can give an annual income of P269,000.00 as against the production cost that can reached up to P155,491.00. Farmers still have a net income of P113,508.00.

Although there is no National Irrigation Administration office operating in Orion, there is a communal pumping irrigation run by farmer’s cooperative in the upland barangays. The irrigation system serves the 422-hectare of irrigated land in Barangays General Lim, Bilolo, Sabatan (Acacia, Laon), Daan Pare, San Vicente and Balut. There is an on-going effort to upgrade the existing irrigation system so that more agricultural lands will be served.

Livestock-raising is another important program of the land-based agriculture of Orion. Broilers (89%) are the primary type of livestock being raised, followed by ducks (7%). Carabaos, pigs and goats are also raised but in a relatively smaller quantity.
AGAPITO ANGELES was Orion’s vice mayor from 1918-1919 and 1919-1921. He served during the administration of Mayors Aproniano Tiambeng and Simeon Rodriguez.

Angeles of Barangay Wakas ran for the position of Vice Mayor in 1918 together with mayoralty aspirant Aproniano Tiambeng of Bagumbayan. Both of them won against the tandem of incumbent town officials Donato Calimbas and Nicasio Baluyut. Angeles served from 1918 until 1919. Mayor Tiambeng, on the other hand, was not able to complete his two-year term after he was unceremoniously removed from office by acting Governor Pedro Rich. The governor also placed Orion under military control. It resulted from the ensuing violent confrontations between Orion and Pilar residents after one Jose Baluyut of Orion shot to death former Governor Conrado Lerma, a native of Pilar.

To end the strife, Governor Rich suspended Mayor Tiambeng and Pilar Mayor Leandro Aguinaldo who were believed to have instigated the violent clashes between the residents of both towns. Local administration of Orion and Pilar was placed under appointed Mayor Simeon Rodriguez (former Orion mayor from 1905-1907, 1907-1909) who at that time was already a resident of Wakas, Pilar.

Vice Mayor Agapito Angeles was allowed to finish his term until 1919. And since no election was held in Orion that year, he was allowed to continue his term as vice mayor of Orion from 1919 to 1921. He retired from politics after his second term.

AGUSTIN ANGELES was the 18th mayor of Orion. He initially served as an appointed town executive from 1946 to 1947. He was elected to the same position in 1947 and served until 1951. He was a municipal councilor in 1923 and vice mayor in 1925. His father, Mariano Angeles, served as the fourth mayor of Orion (1909-1910, 1910-1912).

Born in Wakas, Angeles was only 27 years old when he was elected as town councilor of Orion in 1923 during the administration of Mayor Fausto Paguio, a famous musician who became the 11th mayor of Orion.

During the 1925 local elections, Angeles was chosen as the runningmate of mayoralty aspirant Manuel R. Santos. The latter defeated incumbent Mayor Paguio while Angeles won over incumbent Vice Mayor Francisco Calimbas, who also served as the fifth mayor of Orion (1912-1914).

Manuel Santos and Angeles ran for re-election in 1927. Angeles, however, was defeated by the more seasoned politician, Simeon Rodriguez (elected twice as mayor of Orion from 1905-1907 and 1907-1909).
Angeles suffered another loss against the same Rodriguez in 1929.

Despite the losses, Angeles was able to maintain his stature as an influential political leader in Orion even after World War II. It was the reason why acting Bataan Governor Joaquin J. Linao appointed him as the 18th mayor of Orion in 1946. He replaced Mayor Emiliano Navarro (17th mayor of Orion, 1945-1946) who was also appointed by former acting Governor Teodoro Camacho.

In 1947, when the first local election was held, Angeles with his runningmate Pedro Pangilinan ran for the same position. He defeated Arsenio Joco at the polls. Pangilinan also won as vice mayor.

During the 1951 elections, Angeles accepted the challenge of former Mayor Manuel R. Santos. It was a close battle between an incumbent mayor and a former mayor with Santos winning over Angeles.

ANGELES, Mariano

MARIANO ANGELES was the 4th mayor of Orion. He served from 1909 to 1910. He was re-elected in 1910 and served until 1912.

Angeles, a rich landowner of Barangay Wakas, was a newcomer in the political scene when he ran for mayor in 1909. It was the most opportune time as the incumbent mayor, Simeon Rodriguez of Bantan, was not qualified to seek a third term after transferring residence to Wakas, Pilar. With the support of Mayor Rodriguez, Angeles defeated Francisco Urquisa, a two-time vice mayor. Angeles’ vice mayor was Pedro Hipolito.

The immense popularity of Angeles and Hipolito made it possible for them to seek re-election in 1909. They ran unopposed and continued to serve until 1912. They were succeeded by new elected officials, Francisco Calimbas and Francisco Urquisa as mayor and vice mayor.
RICARDO TIA NGCO ANGELES (1917- ) was Orion’s 22nd mayor. He served from 1963 to 1967.

Angeles was born in Orion on February 21, 1917. His parents both worked in the fields to make both ends meet. He has just turned 21 years old and still in high school when he answered the government’s call for all male citizens of his age to undertake the mandatory five and a half months military training. It was part of the plan of General Douglas MacArthur to build a national defense system that would make any potential enemy think twice about invading the Philippines. Angeles trained in one of the training camps in Manila.

When the Japanese attacked Hawaii and the Philippines in December 1941, World War II had begun. Angeles became an integral part of that war and was assigned with the 91st Division. He held the rank of 3rd lieutenant. In Mindanao, he led a platoon of soldiers fighting the Japanese as they advanced into the inner sanctum of Misamis Oriental. He too surrendered and participated in another infamous Death March from Cagayan de Oro City to Iligan City.

After a month, he was also sent and incarcerated in Capas, Tarlac. He was released along with other Filipino prisoners-of-war after nearly a year of incarceration. Immediately, he joined the guerilla movement. He donned the uniform of the Army of the United States (AUS) during the Liberation.

He received the rank of First Lieutenant when he was sent to Japan as part of the AUS peacekeeping force. He left the Army in 1949 but refused to become an American citizen. Instead, he enrolled at the Araneta University as a US government scholar and completed his Agricultural Engineering course in 1953. He was employed as a government agricultural engineer and assigned at the Food Terminal Inc. in Bicutan, Taguig City.

He entered the political scene in 1963 by running for mayor of Orion. In addition to his war records and commanding personality, Angeles proved to be better prepared than his rival, former Councilor Bernardo Pizarro of Daan Bilolo. The election resulted in a landslide victory for Angeles. His runningmate, Ernesto Pascual, however, lost to Felizardo Bernabe. Both officials served until 1967.

Newcomer Gabriel L. Manrique of Barangay Daan Bago challenged Angeles’ leadership during the 1967 elections. Angeles lost by a slim margin. His runningmate, Ernesto Pascual, triumphed over Manrique’s candidate Felizardo Bernabe.

It was Vice Mayor Ernesto Pascual who challenged the leadership of incumbent Mayor Manrique in 1971. The bid was unsuccessful.

In 1980, Angeles ran against Manrique but it was unsuccessful. Manrique got 7,852 votes as against Angeles’ 4,469. Angeles’ runningmate, Felizardo Bernabe, also lost to incumbent vice mayor, Dr. Antonio H. Mariano. Despite the loss, Angeles remained as one of the acknowledged leaders in Orion and a vocal critic of Mayor Manrique.
ARELLANO is a barangay in the town proper of Orion. It was one of the populated residential areas comprising the old Poblacion. Prior to its recognition as a regular barangay, the community was then known as Barangay de Hipolito dela Cruz, in honor of the first cabeza de barangay of the place.

Mayor Francisco Urquiza, the sixth mayor of Orion, initiated the creation of Arellano into a regular barangay in 1915 to answer the call of Governor Maximino delos Reyes (1912-1916) for the creation of new barangays in the province. Barangay de Hipolito dela Cruz, later known as Tangaran, was changed to Arellano.

The name Arellano was used in honor of its most illustrious native, Cayetano Arellano, the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (1901-1913).

Arellano has a land area of 3.58 hectares, the second smallest barangay in Orion. It is presently inhabited by 760 residents. The barangay is bounded on the north by Balagtas, on the south by San Vicente River, on the east by Bagumbayan, and on the west by San Vicente.

The barangay has a day care center and hosts the legislative building (Sangguniang Bayan). It will also be the proposed site of the Justice Hall to be named after Chief Justice Cayetano Arellano.
CAYETANO SIMPLICIO LONZON ARELLANO (1847-1920) was a native of Orion who became the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Arellano was born in Orion to parents Servando Arellano, (a Spaniard who was the brother of Fr. Cayetano Arellano, one-time parish priest of Orion) and Crisfora Lonzon. After completing his primary education in Bataan, he enrolled at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran in Manila as a working student. After high school, he transferred to the University of Santo Tomas where he finished his Bachelor’s degrees in Philosophy (1862) and Theology (1867). He continued his studies and finished Law in 1876. It was in 1886 when he was named as a substitute minor judge (Magistrado Suplente) while finishing his Theology course. After a few years, he became a Magistrado Suplente dela Audiencia Territorial de Manila. He was also elected as city councilor of Manila in 1877. He also taught Civil Code at UST. Arellano was offered the position of Secretary of Foreign Affairs by President Emilio Aguinaldo on July 15, 1898. He declined the offer since he was in sympathy with the Americans. Apolinario Mabini took over the position. When the draft of the new Constitution was presented for discussion, it was Arellano who led a group objecting to the provision making Catholicism as the religion of the State. To him, the State should recognize the freedom and equality of all religion, as well as the separation of the Church and State. Arellano’s group won by one vote. On January 21, 1899, Aguinaldo promulgated the so-called Malolos Constitution. In 1901 when the Philippine Commission was established by the Americans, Arellano was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. In 1904, US President Theodore Roosevelt also appointed him to represent the US to the Philippines. He was also honored with a Doctor of Laws degree by the University of Yale. Ten years later, the University of the Philippines gave him the same honor for his competence and dedication. Justice Arellano retired in 1913 and died on December 23, 1920.
Bishop TEODORO CRUZ BACANI was the former Bishop of Novaliches. At one time, he served as Auxiliary Bishop of Manila. His mother, Consolacion Hernandez Cruz, was a native of Orion.

Barangay Tuyo, in Balanga, was the birthplace of Bishop Bacani. His father was Engr. Teodoro T. Bacani of San Isidro, Guagua, Pampanga while his mother was an Orion beauty, one of the most sought-after Reyna Elenas in many Santacruzans in the province during her time.

Bishop Bacani was raised in Bulacan but completed his elementary and high school education in Manila. During summer vacation, Bishop Bacani spent at least a month every year in Orion to be with his grandparents, Pedro Cruz and Severina Hernandez, both natives of Calungusan. After completing his courses in Philosophy and Theology, he was ordained in the Sacred Priesthood and in the Episcopacy.

While serving as Bishop of Novaliches, he gained national prominence as spiritual director of the El Shaddai, together with Evangelist Mike Velarde. He is currently assigned at the San Carlos Seminary.

Bishop Bacani once wrote: "...I loved to spend about one month every year, during summer vacation, in Calungusan with my grandparents. Since my uncle and his other surviving sister were childless, we were the only grandchildren of my grandparents. Because of this, they were very good to us and never once threatened us with corporal punishment or scolded us. Thus, I loved to stay there even though my maternal grandparents were much poorer than my father’s parents in San Isidro, Guagua, Pampanga where I used to spend the other half of my summer vacation.

"Those were times when I did not mind very much walking a kilometer to Bantan or one and a half kilometers to Camachile to visit relatives. The alternative during my elementary days was a karetela ride which was not always available. Sometimes, I would take the short cut to Camachile by walking through the ricefields especially when the crop had already been harvested.

"The fields yielded frogs for sinampalukang palaka. But one of these treks almost probed fatal to me as I almost stepped on a snake which reacted to my panic by raising itself upright and lunging forward, but luckily not towards me.

"The great sports during those days were softball and volleyball. Calungusan had its softball and volleyball teams. Exhibition or tournament matches were real barrio events.

"During my elementary days, there was no electricity yet in the barrios of Orion. The evenings were dark. There were not even many radios and certainly no television. Recreation in the evening was a card game called talpak which was illegal but tolerated.

"Our preferred swimming place was the sea in Camachile. The images of pagodas to honor their patron saint and the Cross of May are still fresh in my mind. And when it was low tide, we could pick up oysters and catch crabs for our supper. These are some of my nostalgic memories of Orion."
BAGUMBAYAN is the barangay closest to Arellano. It grew out of the former narrow river bank of the San Vicente River and Baña Creek. The accretion occurred after the San Vicente River took a southward course before finding its way into the Manila Bay. Some enterprising residents took the opportunity and laid claim to the so-called public land. In time, people filled up the new land mass and established residence in the area.

It was former Governor Gregorio Quicho who initiated the creation of Bagumbayan and other barangays in 1928. Upon creation, it took the name *Bagumbayan*, which literally means a new community.

The barangay is bounded on the north by Balut, on the south by Lati, on the east by Daan Bago and on the west by Arellano. It has an area of 3.88 hectares, the third smallest in Orion. As per 2000 Census, Bagumbayan has 1,431 residents.

Some of the well-known residents of Bagumbayan are former board member Ruperto Mariano, former Mayor Antonio H. Mariano, former Vice Mayor Alejo Candido.
BALAGTAS, formerly a vast ricefield and fishpond area, is the newest economic center of Orion. At present, the barangay plays host to the Orion Public Market, big commercial centers such as Vercons, Fred’s Mart, Bataan Commercial Enterprises, Village Savings Bank, Petron and Total gasoline stations, Evergreen Memorial Park, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company and Orion Water District.

Balagtas was named after Francisco Balagtas, the Prince of Filipino poets and was established as a regular barangay on February 4, 1972.

The barangay has a total land area of 35.62 hectares and has a population of 1,263 as per 2006 Census.

New structures dot the length of Barangay Balagtas

Balagtas is bounded on the north by Sto. Domingo, on the south by San Vicente, and Arellano, on the east by Sto. Domingo and Balut, and on the west by Sto. Domingo and San Vicente.

The barangay was initially an agricultural area. It was transformed into a residential community in the 1970s with the opening of Mel-Luz Subdivision. And as soon as the public market was built in the barangay in 1997, the economy of Balagtas flourished tremendously.

The barangay’s panorama is changing as additional concrete and steel structures are built in the area.
BALMASEDA, JULIAN CRUZ

JULIAN CRUZ BALMASEDA (1885-1947) was a prolific playwright and poet from San Vicente, Orion whose plays and other writings won the hearts of the literary critics and even the so-called “bakya” crowd. He was in the company of other noted writers like Maximino delos Reyes, Lope K. Santos and Severino Reyes.

Balmaseda was born on January 28, 1885. He was the fifth child of Rufino Cruz Balmaseda and Simona Francisco. He finished his primary education in Bacoor, Cavite. He spent two years as a student of now Bataan National High School but finished his secondary education in Cavite. He completed his Bachelor of Arts degree from the Escuela de Derecho in Manila.

He became a staff member of “Balagtas,” the newspaper of the Labor Union (Unyon ng mga Manggagawa) in 1913. He also became the second president of Aklatan ng Bayan, a language and literary organization which he co-founded. He was also a regular columnist of the Alitaptap Magasin under the pseudonym Alpahol. His columns were written in poetry style. Famous poet and columnist “Sisong Kantanod” of Balita, a national tabloid, merely copied Balmaseda’s style.

The response of the public on Balmaseda’s play, Isang Kuwaltang Abaka (1922), was tremendous. Critics also hailed his other literary works which include short stories, essays and poems.

Balmaseda’s popularity came at the most unexpected time during the Japanese Occupation. It was the period when the writer’s hands were tied and he could barely move them enough to portray or depict harmless subjects. Quite surprisingly, the Japanese encouraged the development of the Tagalog language and gave it an impetus never witnessed during the American period. The Japanese helped the Filipino writers rediscover the beauty of the native language.

Furthermore, they encouraged several groups of college actors to form cultural groups, the most notable of which was the Dramatic Philippines. Under the group’s management and direction, plays like Applesauce, Golden Boy, Cyrano de Bergerac, Julius Caesar, The Husband of Mrs. Cruz, Sa Pula Sa Puti, Seven Keys to Bad Fate and Passion Play were presented and won the hearts of the viewing public.

Some of the famous plays written by Balmaseda were Sa Bunganga ng Pating (1921), Sa Pinto ng Langit (1921), Ang Tala sa Kabundukan (1921), Sankuwaltang Abaka (1922), Sino Ba Kayo? (comedy, 1942) and Palabas ni Suwan (1943). These plays are still being staged by various cultural groups up to the present time.

He also wrote several poems. Ang Piso ni Anita, a poem about thrift had earned him the recognition as a serious poet. A long poem, Sa Bayan ni Plaridel, was published by Balmaseda in 1913. It was his tribute to a famous writer and reform activist Marcelo H. del Pilar.

Orion’s literary genius passed away on September 18, 1947.
FRANCISCA PERRERA BALTAZAR was the mother of Atty. Efren Baltazar Pascual, the 24th governor of Bataan (1972-1986). She was one of the granddaughters of Francisco Baltazar and Juana Tiambeng.

Francisca was born in Barangay Wakas, Orion on November 1, 1904 to parents Luis Baltazar (Orion mayor, 1903-1905) and Dionisia Perrera of Barangay Wawa. In addition to her high status in society, Francisca was also known for her exquisite beauty and charm. It was no accident when a very promising physician from Orani, Dr. Francisco Pascual, fell in love with her. The two got married in Orion, in a ceremony officiated by Fr. Primitivo Baltazar (Francisca’s uncle).

The Pascual-Baltazar union produced several children, all born in Orani. They include Benjamin (engineer), Efren (lawyer), Francisco Jr. (doctor). Benjamin served as mayor of Orani and Bataan board member. Efren also served as mayor of Orani, then vice-governor and lastly governor of Bataan.

Francisca passed away on August 1, 1993.

FRANCISCO DELA CRUZ BALTAZAR (1788-1862) is the author of the much-acclaimed Tagalog epic Florante at Laura.

Baltazar was born in Bigaa, Bulacan on April 2, 1788 to parents Juan Baltazar and Juana dela Cruz. He was baptized on April 3 of the same year. It is said that he learned to write poetry from Jose dela Cruz (Huseng Sisíw), one of the most famous poets of Tondo, Manila. Later, he turned to be more famous than his former mentor.

In 1835, Baltazar moved to Pandacan where he met Maria Asuncion Rivera who became his inspiration in writing the Florante at Laura epic. He wrote the book while serving time in prison as a result of a criminal complaint filed against him by one Mariano Capuli, a rival suitor. It was only after his release from jail did he publish the book.

In 1840, he became an auxiliary to the residential judge of Balanga and clerk to Don Victor Figueroa. It was in Orion that he became involved in the fight for freedom. He joined a secret society of rebels and served as a major lieutenant. He met and later married a wealthy mestiza lady from Daan Bilolo, Juana Tiambeng, the daughter of Don Juan Tiambeng and Doña Dominga Rodriguez. His wife was said to have financed the publication of Florante at Laura.

The civil wedding was solemnized by Fr. Cayetano Arellano (an uncle of Supreme Court Chief Justice Cayetano L. Arellano).

The Baltazar couple had 11 children: five boys and six girls named Isabel, Silveria, Victor, Ceferino and Josefa, to name a few.

Though a Bulakeño, it was in Bataan where he received his inspiration in writing his masterpieces: Mahomet at Constanza (1841), Almanzor y Rosalina, Orosmán at Zafira, Don Nuno y Zelinda, La India Elegante y el Negrito Amante (a sonnet), Hatol Hari Kaya (a kundiman), Parangal sa Isang Binibining Ikakasal.....
BALTAZAR, JOSE L.

People's Hero
Francisco Baltazar had a son named Victor Baltazar who formed the Katipunan unit in Orion in 1896 or during the last years of Spanish domination in the Philippines. After freeing the town from the Spaniards, he was recognized as a people's hero in Orion.

...a poem) Paalam sa Iyo (a song), Rodolfo at Rosamunda (a comedy), Pagpupuri kay Isabel II, Reyna sa España (poems), Auredato y Astrone (a comedy), Nudo Gordiano (a comedy), Abdul y Miserena (a comedy), Clara Belmori (a comedy).

Baltazar also published his El Ensayo de Gramatica Hispano-Tagala in 1878.

The Hymno de San Miguel, then known as Pagpupuri kay San Miguel (another poem by Balagtas translated into a song) is still being sung in the Roman Catholic Church on special occasions.

Baltazar was also known as Francisco Balagtas, in recognition for being the prince of Tagalog poets. “Balagtas” was only an assumed name. It was the surname of a family living in Manila where Francisco served as a houseboy.

While residing in Orion, Francisco was jailed for the second time for cutting the hair of his housemaid. The victim sued in court and demanded renumeration. Baltazar paid damages by selling their lands and escaped jail term. This made the family suffered financially. He continued writing poetry until his death in Orion in 1862 at the age of 74.

BALTAZAR, Jose L.

JOSE LONZON BALTAZAR (1886-1967) was the 13th mayor of Orion. Together with Vice Mayor Mariano Mejia, he served from 1931 to 1934. He was the younger brother of former Orion Mayor Luis Baltazar (1903-1905) and Fr. Primitivo Baltazar, the first native of Orion to become a parish priest of St. Michael The Archangel Parish starting in 1904.

Baltazar, a long-time resident of Barangay San Vicente, was actually born in Wakas on October 15, 1886. His parents were Ceferino Baltazar and Ciraca Lonzon. After spending a year at the Ateneo de Manila where he was taking up Commerce, he quit his studies and married Ceferina Baluyut, also from Orion. They had eight children: Ligaya, Marcela, Cesar, Ciraca, Juan, Aurora, Jose Jr. and Nestor.

He was already 41 years old when he entered the political scene in Orion. He ran for a councilor seat in 1927 and easily got elected together with re-electionist Mayor Manuel R. Santos. Both of them were re-elected in 1929. In 1931, it was Mayor Santos who encouraged Baltazar to run for mayor. The latter took the challenge and easily defeated his rival, former Mayor Fausto Paguyo.

Despite a lackluster performance during his term, Baltazar still aspired to become the first Commonwealth mayor of Orion during the 1934 local elections. Unfortunately, he lost to a newcomer politician, Valeriano “American Boy” Soriano of Daan Bikolo.

Despite the defeat, Baltazar remained a political stalwart in Orion until his death on January 29, 1967.
Luis L. Baltazar, first elected mayor of Orion (1903-1905). He replaced Vicente Rodriguez, who was appointed mayor by the Americans in 1901.

Baltazar was the eldest son of Ceferino Baltazar (son of Francisco Baltazar) and Ciria Lonzon (first cousin of Cayetano Arellano). There was paucity on other details of Baltazar's personal life. But it is worth mentioning that he was acknowledged as a Revolutionary officer during the early part of the Filipino-American War (1898-1900). Just like his uncle Victor Baltazar, Luis also held the rank of an Army lieutenant. While fighting the American troops in Orion, he befriended then Major Manuel L. Quezon when the latter was assigned as the top Philippine Army officer in Bataan. He was also among those Filipino rebels who surrendered in October 1900 to American Captain John Gouldman (Bataan governor, 1901-1903).

The prominence of the family name Baltazar came in handy when Luis ran for mayor of Orion in 1903. He won over incumbent Mayor Vicente Rodriguez through acclamation. He was immediately proclaimed as the new presidente actual (mayor) in the town plaza, in front of the people who participated in the election. The said election was the first formal election held during the American regime which made Baltazar as the first elected mayor of Orion since 1901.

After serving Orion for two years, Baltazar was employed as clerk of court in Balanga.

FR. PRIMITIVO LONZON BALTAZAR (1871-1942) was the first native of Orion to be assigned as parish priest of St. Michael The Archangel Parish. He administered the church from 1904 to 1940.

Fr. Baltazar, a grandson of Francisco Baltazar, was born in Barangay Wakas, Orion in 1871. His parents were Ceferino Baltazar and Ciria Lonzon. Two of his brothers, Luis and Jose, became the 2nd and 13th mayor of Orion, respectively.

Padre Tibong, as he was more popularly known, completed his studies of Licentiate in Canon Law at the UST Central Seminary and was ordained as a priest in 1896. He was initially assigned as a parochial vicar in Binondo, Manila before becoming the parish priest of Orion in 1904.

During his 34-year stint in Orion and Limay, Fr. Baltazar was noted for his honesty, charitable and philanthropic deeds. He supported the education of many Bataeños who became successful professionals. He retired in 1940.

During the Japanese Occupation, he and the majority of the Baltazar clan evacuated to Bulacan. He died in Hagonoy in April 1942.
VICTOR TIAMBENG BALTAZAR was one of the more prominent sons of Francisco Baltazar and Juana Tiambeng. He was the one who organized and led the local Katipunan unit in Orion in the revolt against the Spaniards in 1898.

Baltazar, a native of Lati, Orion, joined a Katipunan unit in Manila in 1896. Although based in Calle Sacristy, now Ongpin, he crossed Manila Bay many times to recruit men in Orion to join the secret organization. It surprised him to realize that two years earlier, one Teodoro Barcarse of Mariveles already formed another rebel organization in the municipality and many of his recruits have been trained in hand-to-hand fighting by one Urbano de Guzman. Even De Guzman did not know that the recruits would one day constitute the fighting men of the revolution against the Spaniards.

It should be mentioned that Tiburcio de Leon from Bulacan was the one who suggested to Baltazar that his men be formally affiliated to the national organization. After the formal enlistment to the Katipunan, Baltazar was promoted to the rank of lieutenant. He called his unit Dampulan because of their dyed sinamay clothes and kundiman trousers.

At around 8 o’clock in the morning of May 29, 1898, the hostilities between the Katipuneros and Spaniards in Bataan started. The Dampulan unit came down from the forest of Bilolo, Daan Pare, and Puting Buhangin and surrounded the church and convent of St. Michael Parish where the cuartel was situated. But Baltazar’s men could not approach the buildings because of the armed Spanish soldiers guarding the place.

In Balanga, General Domingo Alonzo and his group of rebels also attacked the Spaniards in Balanga. But they had a hard time in defeating the Spaniards who had taken refuge inside the St. Joseph Church (now called Balanga Cathedral).

Abucay and Samal rebels also revolted against the Spaniards that same day.

1898 Local Revolution
On May 29, 1898 the same day Orion was liberated, Pilar rebels led by Gregorio Paguio also succeeded in freeing the said town from Spanish domination. The Nuestra Señora del Pilar Church and the adjoining convent, however, were burned down to the ground before the casadores and guardia civiles yielded to the rebels.

In Balanga, General Domingo Alonzo and his group of rebels also attacked the Spaniards in Balanga. But they had a hard time in defeating the Spaniards who had taken refuge inside the St. Joseph Church (now called Balanga Cathedral).

The victorious rebels returned to the church vicinity where they kept vigil through the night while continuously asking Frs. Ulpiano Herrero and Julian Misol, as well as the remaining Spanish and Filipino soldiers to surrender. In the morning of May 30, the priests came down from the tower of the church and with them descended the Spanish soldiers carrying a white flag.

Informed of the difficulty being encountered by General Domingo Alonzo and his men in defeating the Spaniards in Balanga, Lt. Victor Baltazar took his two Spanish priest-prisoners to the capital town to facilitate the surrender of the Spaniards who had taken refuge inside the St. Joseph Church (now called Balanga Cathedral). Surprisingly, the two priests from Orion were able to persuade the Spaniards to surrender and bloodshed was minimized.
Here is an insight into the way our heroes – both known and unknown – fought against the Spaniards over a century ago. The following are instructions from General Emilio Aguinaldo on how to launch a surprise attack on the enemy…

“...Let the attack be a surprise, making use of bolos, daggers, and clubs, so as to avoid as many casualties as possible, because if the attack would be made with rifle, the enemy would begin to fire at long distance from the town and it is easy to see that the same would not be taken quickly in that event. Therefore, surprise is better, and none will be engaged in it but those of the town itself, in the following manner:

“Convene inhabitants of the town, in number equal to the fourth part of that of the Spaniards, and divide them into platoons equal also to in number to the posts or barracks of the same. Besides this, let there be five or six men, previously instructed who will enter two at a time into the barracks, carrying with them presents for the commanders under the pretext of asking a pass or of denouncing several revolutionists and diverting them by such means.

“Before all this is done, fix about an hour, say 12 o'clock daytime, and instantaneously and simultaneously let the attack begin. Apart from all this, let there be in the same way persons charged with dissuading the people of the town from giving assistance which they might feel like extending to their brethren engaged in battle. Direct them to call out in a loud voice to the people not to be afraid, and other words that may serve to cheer their hearts and stimulate their courage.

“Endeavor to secure the sentinels and commanders; if they will not surrender, kill them. Also, secure their armories, and when this is done, the arms found there will be taken by our men. Those who are to fight, or to help those who previously entered the barracks, should look out well, and charge those who carried the presents, that they shall under no circumstances take a rifle; bolos are preferable in hand-to-hand conflict while they are mixed together. At all parts, they will use but the bolo and will be merciful to our compatriots, the native Filipino soldiers, persuading them to unite with us, shouting in a loud voice the words “The Filipinos are not enemies,” and victory will be almost certain; on the contrary, if timidity should prevail, nothing will be accomplished; but Filipinos are far from being of a cowardly nature when defense of their country is in question.

“In view of this, I entertain the hope that you will not allow the Spanish government to continue any longer, nor allow them to fortify and renew their courage. I repeat, carry this out in a short time, and if you obey me, it is advisable that the 10th of this month shall not go before they are prevented from constructing more entrenchments, as mentioned above. Families should not leave their respective houses, but dig holes where they can take refuge from the bullets and bury their money in the grounds so it may not be discovered.

“Brothers, take courage, for in 20 minutes, the battle will be over and the Spaniards will have surrendered, if you allow the methods I have described above, and such others as may appear to you to be conducive to final success; also we shall probably have no casualties.”

By order of
General Emilio Aguinaldo
BALUT was the second coastal area in Orion where the Spaniards discovered a scattered community of early Malay settlers. It turned out that as early as the 1500s, the place was already a busy trading post just like Barangay Calungusan and Sto. Domingo. Cascos laden with agricultural products crowded the mouth of San Vicente River where Balut was situated. At that time, Balut was known as Atlag. Most of the early Balut inhabitants were fishermen but knew more about the barter trade.

As soon as the Poblacion was established in 1667, Balut suddenly lost most of its inhabitants who have chosen to live closer to St. Michael Church area where the new government-run trading center was set up. Those who remained in Balut returned to fishing, tuyo- and tinapa-making, their original means of livelihood. During the whole Spanish regime, Balut became a mere sitio of Poblacion as a result of its continuous depopulation. The area was already heavily covered with shrubs and plants when people recognized the importance of owning a piece of land away from the Poblacion. They turned to Balut as a new community after Poblacion also became over-populated. The old name Atlag was changed to Balut after it became a sitio of Barangay Arellano (created as a regular barangay in 1915).

Balut, became a regular barangays in 1928, during the term of Bataan Governor Gregorio Quicho, a native of Orion.

The present Balut is bounded on the north by Balagtas, on the south and west by Arellano, and on the east by Manila Bay. It has a total land area of 20.15 hectares and a population of 1,070 people.
JOSE BALUYUT (–1916) was a native of Orion who served as board member of Bataan from 1914 to 1916. He was convicted and jailed for shooting and killing Bataan Governor Conrado Lerma in 1918. Baluyut, a resident of Wakas, Orion, was a rich landowner who accepted the offer of Maximino delos Reyes of Balanga to run for board member during the 1914 local elections. Baluyut was elected and served until 1916 with Delos Reyes as governor.

After his stint at the Capitol, Delos Reyes aspired to become Bataan representative in Congress. He favored Baluyut to be his successor but the result of the 1916 local polls proved disappointing for Baluyut. He lost by a close margin to another gubernatorial candidate from Pilar, Conrado Lerma. He even filed an election protest in court. Since then, he frequented Capitol building (then located at the present site of Balanga Arcade) following up his case.

One day in September 1918, Lerma was surprised to see Baluyut inside his office at the Capitol building. Altercation ensued between the two. It was followed by gunshots. Lerma was found by Capitol employees lying in a pool of blood inside the comfort room. He died from multiple gunshot wounds.

Baluyut, meanwhile, peacefully surrendered to the police. He was convicted of killing Governor Lerma in cold blood. He was jailed at the New Bilibid Prison for eight years before he was released through a Presidential Pardon. Later on, he served as a technical assistant to President Elpidio Quirino. After his stint in Malacañang, he returned to Orion and built a house in Daan Pare where he spent the remaining years of his life.

Tragic Death of a Governor

CONRADO LERMA was the seventh governor of the province. He served Bataan from 1916 until his death in 1918.

Nothing much was written about Governor Lerma except the facts that he was a native of Pilar, and the first incumbent governor of the province who was killed inside the Capitol building. His tragic death was well-written and at times, being discussed in classes of college students studying Criminal Law.

Conrado, just like his older brother and first congressman of Bataan, Jose Lerma (1907-1909), was elected directly by the people. He outpolled Jose Baluyut of Orion during the local elections of 1916.

Lerma’s stay at the Capitol was short-lived. One day in September 1918, he was shot by Baluyut whom he found was waiting for him in his office. Although wounded, Lerma was able to run and hid inside the toilet. But Baluyut followed and shot Lerma again. The governor died on the spot. Baluyut surrendered to the police.

Jose Baluyut
Board Member, 1914-1916

Jail term for Baluyut
For killing Governor Conrado Lerma in September 1918, Jose Baluyut was sentenced and sent to the New Bilibid Prison. He was jailed for eight years before he was released through a Presidential Pardon.

Orion versus Pilar
As a result of Governor Lerma’s killing, Orion and Pilar suddenly found themselves at war. Within the same day, angry Pilar residents trooped to Orion looking for Jose Baluyut not knowing that he had already surrendered to the police after the shooting. Trouble erupted in Orion which forced acting Governor Pedro Rich to place Pilar and Orion under military control. Former Orion Mayor Simeon Rodriguez was appointed mayor of both towns from 1918 until 1921.
A BANK is a place where people can deposit their money for safekeeping. People can open savings accounts that earn them interest, about 4-6 percent per annum. They can open checking accounts so they can pay their bills with checks. And they can borrow money to buy a new house, or car. The banks make a profit by lending the deposited money to people and businesses, or by simply investing it. Banks play an important role in helping economic growth.

There are three commercial banks in Orion at present: the Rural Bank of Abucay in Wakas, Bataan Development Bank in Lati and the Village Savings Bank in Balagtas. Two other banks, the Orion Rural Bank and the Hermosa Savings Bank, both formerly located in Balagtas, had already closed down. The Orion Rural Bank and the Hermosa Savings Bank were placed under receivership by Philippine Depositors Insurance Corporation (PDIC) in 2001 and February 2005 respectively.

Despite the presence of three financial institutions in the municipality, a lot of Orion residents still go and open bank accounts in Balanga, in one or two of the 15 commercial banks based in the city. There, depositors are entitled to have bank cards which they can use to get cash even when the banks are closed.
BANTAN (GRANDE) is the northernmost barangay of Orion. It is more or less 3 kilometers away from the center of the town. It is bounded on the north and west by Pilar town, on the east by Manila Bay, and on the south by Barangay Calungusan. It has a total land area of 141.52 hectares and populated by 1,490 as per 2000 Census.

During the Spanish period, the place was known as Barangay de Juan Enriquez, in honor of the first cabeza de barangay of the place. Bantan was formally established as a regular barangay in 1915, during the term of Governor Maximino de los Reyes (1914-1916). The name of the barangay was also changed to Bantan, its original name before the Spaniards set foot in Bataan. It was the Americans who convinced the residents that the system of naming a place after the name of the first elected leader of the barrio was illogical.

Bantan, according to a local legend, was derived from the Tagalog word bantayan, which means “an outpost” used for detecting the approach of the enemy during the barangay days.

Another legend suggests that Bantan was derived from the Spanish word “bonda” which means “boundary.”

The first families who settled in the place include Agaton Sangalang, Maria Cruz, Sotero Solomon, Bartolo Lopez, Herman Cruz, Dionisio Enriquez, and Juan Bautista.

San Isidro Labrador is the patron saint of the residents of Bantan. The barrio chapel was burned twice during World War II. Nothing was left of it when it was razed to the ground by the Japanese soldiers in April 1942. The chapel was immediately reconstructed but half of the newly-built church was again razed by another fire in 1945, or during the Liberation due to an information that there were Japanese soldiers hiding in the barrio. Incendiary bombs were immediately dropped by American planes.

Bantan residents are mostly farmers, who are industrious, hardworking and very proud of their history.
The old BANTAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL opened as a primary school in 1928, through the initiative of Governor Gregorio R. Quicho (1926-1928, 1929-1931), a native of Orion.

The school, built on the northern part of the barangay, served the children of Bantan and even those residing in Wakas, Pilar. But the school site was only being rented out by its owners, the Rodriguez family. The lot was returned to its owners after the school was partially destroyed during the Liberation. The said lot was later developed and subdivided for residential purposes.

In 1955, a new school was built at its present site, in the southern part of the barrio proper, between Bantan and Calungusan, right in front of the Death March Kilometer Marker (KM) #39. The initial school buildings were erected through the schoolbuilding program of the national government. Additional classrooms were built later on to accommodate the increasing population of school children in Bantan, as well as Calungusan during the time when the latter still has no school of its own.

Bantan Elementary School is a complete elementary institution.

At present, the school has six classrooms. For the school year 2005-2006, the school registered a total enrollment of 106, whose educational needs were provided by six teachers.

Mrs. Araceli A. Buenaventura is the current school caretaker.
BANZON, Rolando Dr.


Dr. Banzon was born in Barangay San Vicente on February 2, 1935. His parents were Vicente F. Banzon and Conchita R. Santos, both natives of Orion. He completed his elementary and secondary education from the Orion Elementary School and Jose Rizal Institute-Orion. He enrolled at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila and completed a degree in Medicine in 1961.

He also finished his Master’s degrees in Public Health from the University of the Philippines, and Health Administration from the Tropical Institute in Amsterdam, Holland.

Dr. Banzon served as a municipal health officer starting in 1963 and became the assistant provincial health officer of Bataan in 1976. He finally became the provincial top doctor in 1988. He was promoted to the position of regional director of the Bicol Region in 1999. A year later, he retired from the government service.

In 2001, he ran for vice mayor of Orion together with reelectionist Mayor Manuel C. Santos Jr. He won against rival Allan Inton, but Santos lost to former Vice Mayor Antonio L. Raymundo Jr.

BANZON, Vicente S.

VICENTE SANTOS BANZON (1945- ) is a native of San Vicente, Orion who became an OIC-Board member of Bataan, manager of the Bataan Export Processing Zone (BEPZ, now Bataan Economic Zone) in Mariveles, and provincial administrator of Bataan during the first administration of Enrique T. Garcia Jr. as governor of Bataan.

Banzon, a lawyer by profession, was born in Orion in April 1945. His parents were Vicente F. Banzon and Conchita R. Santos. He is the youngest among the five Banzon siblings. He finished his Bachelor of Arts, major in Political Science from the Far Eastern University as a university scholar. In 1971, he completed his Law degree from the same school. He passed the Bar examinations in 1972.

Atty. Banzon was initially employed as a legal officer at the Export Processing Zone Administration (EPZA) in Makati. He was promoted to the position of division chief in 1982. On March 18, 1986, nearly a month after the fall of the Marcoses, he was appointed as OIC board member of Bataan together with OIC-Governor Leonardo B. Roman but his stint at the Capitol was short-lived. He was appointed as zone manager of BEPZ on August 13, 1986. He replaced Atty. Gene Vigo, another native of Bataan, who was given a new assignment at the EPZA main office.

In March 1987, however, Banzon resigned from his position …

Unfortunately, he and seven other aspirants lost against newcomer Enrique T. Garcia Jr.

After the loss, Atty. Banzon took time off from politics and concentrated on his family business. In 1992, he returned to the Capitol building as provincial administrator, a position offered to him by Governor Garcia.

His stint at the Capitol, however, was cut short by the result of the Recall election held in Bataan in December 1993 when Governor Garcia lost to his political rival, Leonardo B. Roman.

**Barangay**

BARANGAY is the basic territorial and political unit in the Philippines. It refers to any established community in a municipality. At present, Orion has 23 regular barangays, about 10.6 percent of the total 244 barangays in Bataan, way back in 1961, the municipality had 11 outlying barangays then known as barrios in addition to the poblacion.

The barangays in Orion are categorized into the following:

- **Town Proper Barangays** – San Vicente, Arellano, Bagumbayan, Daan Bilolo, Lati;
- **Periphery Barangays** – Balagtas, Balut, Wawa, Daan Bago, Lusungan, Villa Angeles, Capunitan, Wakas;
- **Lowland Barangays** – Bantan Grande, Calungusan, Camachile, Sta. Domingo;
- **Upland Barangays** – Daan Pare, Sta. Elena, Puting Buhangin, Sabatan, Bilolo and General Lim.

Each barangay is governed by the Sangguniang Barangay. The council is composed of a Punong Barangay, seven barangay kagawad, the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) chairman, a secretary and a treasurer. Members of the council exercise powers and perform duties and functions as provided for in the Local Government Code of 1991. Being the executive and legislative body of the barangay, they create and enforce all laws and ordinances which are applicable within the barangay.

In the municipal level, Punong Barangays have organized the so-called Association of Barangay Councils.
Association of Barangay Councils of Orion, Bataan

President
Ex. Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Auditor
Directors

Melinda N. Berja
Ernesto V. Hernandez
Felipe N. Villegas
Leticia O. Angeles
Carmelita Q. Celindro
Pepito Guinto

Bilolo
Calungusan
Balut
Villa Angeles
Wakas
Lati

Leopoldo dela Rosa
Mercelita D. Cruz
Felix N. dela Cruz
Manuel L. Quezon

Lusungan
San Vicente
Wawa
Balagtas

Other members of the Association of Barangay Councils

Arellano
Bagumbayan
Bantan
Camachile
Capuanitan
Daan Bilolo
Daan Bago
Daan Pare
General Lim
Puting Buhangin
Sabatan
Sta. Elena
Sto. Domingo

Manuel Garcia Jr.
Armando D. Nava
Nelson Rodriguez
Felipe M. Paguio
Rolando S. Hatol
Antonio E. Almazan, Jr.
Carlito Ayuste
Teodoro N. Anza
Norberto R. Mamitag
Delfin C. Reodique
Cezario L. Santiago
Rodolfo R. Rodriguez
Herman V. Fernandez
In 1754, BATAAN was established as a regular province by Spanish Governor General Pedro Manuel Arandia. Records, however, showed that several villages were already in existence in Bataan even before the Spaniards came in 1521.

In the 1570s, early Spanish missionaries who set foot in Bataan for the first time found 30 thriving coastal villages in various parts of the province. These settlers were found to have originated from Borneo and Sumatra, via Mindanao and Visayas. They settled in Bataan between the 13th and 14th centuries. They were predominantly fishermen, farmers and craftsmen. Others were businessmen who were engaged in the barter trade in Manila. The hillsides, on the other hand, were found to be inhabited by Aetas.

Bataan is comprised of 11 municipalities and one city. These are Dinalupihan, Hermosa, Orani, Samal, Abucay, Morong, Balanga (became a city in 2000), Pilar, Orion, Limay, Mariveles and Bagac with a combined land area of 137,296 hectares or about 7.5 percent of Central Luzon. Except for its northeastern portions, which are bounded by Zambales and Pampanga, Bataan is virtually surrounded by seawater.

Despite its size, Bataan is currently one of the top earning provinces in the country in terms of human development index, employment, and dollar-earning capability.

Bataan already earned a place in the history of the Philippines. Tomas Pinpin, the so-called “prince” of Filipino Printers, authored, co-authored and printed some of the oldest books in the country between 1610 and 1639. The printing press used was located inside the Abucay Church.

Bataan was also one of the provinces in Luzon which revolted against the Spaniards. Two of her sons, Pablo Tecson and Tomas del Rosario figured prominently in the Malolos Convention in 1898. Cayetano Arellano, who declined President Emilio Aguinaldo’s offer to become the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, later on became the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (1901-1913).
Bataan became internationally famous during World War II (1941-1945). It was the time when some 60,000 Filipino and American soldiers displayed a gallant defensive stand in the peninsula against the invading and more superior Japanese Imperial Army. Their heroic deeds delayed the strategic timetable of the Japanese and allowed the Allies to build up their forces in Australia which eventually led to the surrender of Japan in 1945.

Today, the Shrine of Valor (Dambana ng Kagitingan) stands majestically atop Mount Samat in Barangay Diwa, Pilar as a testimony to the heroism and bravery of the men and women who gave their lives in defense of democracy.

Bataan is a strategic peninsula lying in the southwestern part of Central Luzon. Manila Bay and South China are its eastern and western boundaries. The province has a total population of 557,659 as of year 2001. Population growth is 2.74 percent while the average household size is 4.90.

The province continues to host the first export processing zone in the country (BEPZ), the petrochemical complex in Mariveles, the Petron Bataan Refinery complex in Limay and several economic zones, including a big portion of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Area (SBMA).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Origin</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>John Gouldman</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>1901-1903*</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tomas del Rosario</td>
<td>Balanga</td>
<td>1903-1905</td>
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<td>Lorenzo Ziaclita</td>
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<td>Pedro Rich</td>
<td>Samal</td>
<td>1908-1910</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Mariano Rosario</td>
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<td>1911-1913</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Maximino delos Reyes</td>
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<td>1914-1916</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Conrado Lerma</td>
<td>Pilar</td>
<td>1917-1918**</td>
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<td>Pedro Rich</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Alberto Aquino</td>
<td>Samal</td>
<td>1920-1922</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Manuel Aguinako</td>
<td>Pilar</td>
<td>1923-1925</td>
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</table>
| 11  | Gregorio Quicho        | Orion       | 1926-1929
|     |                        |             | 1929-1931    |
| 12  | Sabino de Leon         | Pilar       | 1932-1934    |
| 13  | Alberto Aquino         | Samal       | 1935-1937    |
| 14  | Joaquin J. Linao       | Morong      | 1938-1940    |
| 15  | Jose S. Manahan        | Balanga     | 1941-1942    |
| 16  | Simeon Salonga         | Orani       | 1942-1945*   |
| 17  | Teodoro Camacho        | Balanga     | 1945-1946*   |
| 18  | Joaquin J. Linao       | Morong      | 1946-1947*   |
| 19  | Emilio Ma. Naval       | Balanga     | 1948-1951    |
| 20  | Adelmo Camacho         | Balanga     | 1952-1955    |
| 21  | Emilio Ma Naval        | Balanga     | 1956-1959    |
| 22  | Pedro R. Dizon         | Balanga     | 1960-1964    |
|     |                        |             | 1964-1967    |
| 23  | Guillermo Arcenas      | Hermosa     | 1968-1971    |
| 24  | Efren B. Pascual       | Orani/Orion | 1971-1976
|     |                        |             | 1976-1980
|     |                        |             | 1980-1986    |
|     |                        |             | 1988-1992    |
| 27  | Leonardo B. Roman      | Balanga     | 1994-1995    |
|     |                        |             | 1995-1998    |
|     |                        |             | 1998-2001    |
|     |                        |             | 2001-2004    |
| 28  | Enrique Garcia         | Balanga     | 2004 to (2007) |

* appointed

** died in office

*** recalled
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Origin</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jose Lerma</td>
<td>Pilar</td>
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<td>Antonio Llamas</td>
<td>Mariveles</td>
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<td>Manuel Banzon</td>
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<td>1934-1937</td>
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<tr>
<td>Antonio Llamas</td>
<td>Mariveles</td>
<td>1941-1942</td>
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**World War II abolished Congress (1942-1946).**

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Bonifacio Camacho</td>
<td>Abucay</td>
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<td>Medina Lacson de Leon</td>
<td>Balanga</td>
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<td>Jose R. Nuguid</td>
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<td>Pablo R. Roman</td>
<td>Pilar</td>
<td>1965-1969</td>
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On January 17, 1973, the 1973 Constitution took effect and resulted in the abolition of the legislative body, Congress and the Senate. President Ferdinand Marcos ruled under Martial Law.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Origin</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>Antonino Roman Jr.</td>
<td>Orani</td>
<td>1978-1986</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After **EDSA Revolution**, Bataan was divided into two congressional districts in 1987.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Felicito Payumo</td>
<td>Dinalupihan</td>
<td>1987-1991</td>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Felicito Payumo</td>
<td>Dinalupihan</td>
<td>1992-1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominador Venegas</td>
<td><strong>Orion</strong></td>
<td><strong>1992-1995</strong></td>
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Felicito Payumo</td>
<td>Dinalupihan</td>
<td>1995-1998</td>
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<tr>
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<th>Origin</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antonino Roman Jr.</td>
<td>Orani</td>
<td>2001-2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrique Garcia Jr.</td>
<td>Balanga</td>
<td>2001-2004</td>
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</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antonino Roman Jr.</td>
<td>Orani</td>
<td>2004 to 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albert S. Garcia</td>
<td>Balanga</td>
<td>2004 to 2007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Bataan Government Officials

World War II brought tremendous devastation in Bataan. Fortunately, bits of our local history were carefully noted by the government and religious sector. Bataan, as far as available records are concerned, was governed by ELECTED/APPOINTED local officials from 1945 to present, namely:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term coverage: 1945 to June 15, 1946</th>
<th>Term coverage: January 1, 1956 to Dec.30, 1959</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governor (appointed)</td>
<td>Governor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEODORO CAMACHO</td>
<td>EMILIO MA. NAVAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board members</td>
<td>Raymundo Galicia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emilio V. Reyes</td>
<td>Atty. Faustino Vigo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lorenzo dela Fuente</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Atty. Restituto Roman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atty. Emilio Dizon</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governor (acting)</th>
<th>Governor (acting)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TEODORO CAMACHO</td>
<td>EMILIO MA. NAVAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAMON L. SANTOS</td>
<td>EDMUNDO GALICIA</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term coverage: June 24, 1946 to July 15, 1946</th>
<th>Term coverage: January 1, 1960 to Dec.30, 1963</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governor (acting)</td>
<td>Governor (acting)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAPIDAS SANTOS</td>
<td>PEDRO R. DIZON</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term coverage: July 16, 1946 to Dec.30, 1947</th>
<th>Term coverage: January 1, 1964 to December 30, 1967</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governor (appointed)</td>
<td>Governor (appointed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOAQUIN J. LINAO</td>
<td>PEDRO R. DIZON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>(up to March 30, 1968)</td>
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</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term coverage: October 1, 1947 to Dec.30, 1947</th>
<th>Term coverage: January 1, 1968 to Dec.30, 1971</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governor (acting)</td>
<td>Governor (acting)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEVERINO MANAHAN</td>
<td>GUILERMO ARCEO</td>
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<td>(Starts April 1, 1968 due to protest)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term coverage: January 1, 1948 to Dec.30, 1951</th>
<th>Term coverage: January 1, 1968 to Dec.30, 1971</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governor</td>
<td>Governor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMILIO MA. NAVAL</td>
<td>GUILERMO ARCEO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>(Starts April 1, 1968 due to protest)</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term coverage: January 1, 1952 to Dec.30, 1955</th>
<th>Term coverage: January 1, 1972 to January, 1976</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governor</td>
<td>Governor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADELMO CAMACHO</td>
<td>EFREN B. PASCUAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Starts April 1, 1972 due to protest)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Term coverage: June 24, 1946 to July 15, 1946
- Term coverage: July 16, 1946 to Dec.30, 1947
- Term coverage: October 1, 1947 to Dec.30, 1947
- Term coverage: January 1, 1948 to Dec.30, 1951
- Term coverage: January 1, 1952 to Dec.30, 1955
- Term coverage: January 1, 1956 to Dec.30, 1959
- Term coverage: January 1, 1960 to Dec.30, 1963
- Term coverage: January 1, 1964 to December 30, 1967
- Term coverage: January 1, 1968 to Dec.30, 1971
- Term coverage: January 1, 1972 to January, 1976
Martial Law was proclaimed on September 11, 1972. Marcos continued to be the Philippine President. A new political system, the Citizen Assembly, was introduced on January 12, 1976.

Term coverage: Feb. 4, 1976 to Feb. 1980
Governor  
EFREN B. PASCUAL
Representatives  
Rufino Navarro  
(June 1976)  
Jesus Sanchez  
Irene Flores  
Remegio Sacdalan  
Geronimo Ursulo  
Alfredo Jaraba  
Jaime Ocampo  
Martin Manalansan  
Arturo Roxas  
Josue Ricafrente  
Teodorico de Jesus  
Jose Bugay  
Antonio Mariano  
Rustico Mallari  
Kabataang Bgy.  
Judy Carunungan  
Nelson J. Cruz  
(Feb. 21, 1979)  
Federation ABC  
Pablo Roman Jr.
Secretary  
Tirso David

Term coverage: March 1, 1980 to March 1986
Governor  
EFREN B. PASCUAL
Vice Governor  
Carolina N. Beltran
SP Members  
Rustico Mallari  
Crisostomo Banzon  
Manuel Santos Jr.  
Rustico Consunji  
Teodoro Pizarro Jr.  
Remegio Sacdalan  
ABC  
Antonio Ortiguera  
(July 8, 1980)  
KB  
Nelson J. Cruz  
Antonio Consunji  
(July 8, 1980)  
Dominador Carunungan  
(vice A. Consunji, Oct. 27, 1981)
Secretary  
Tirso David

Term coverage: March 18, 1986 to May 28, 1988
Governor  
LEONARDO B. ROMAN
Vice Governor  
Florencio de Guzman  
Nelson C. David  
(vice Guzman, Jan. 28, 1987)
Board members  
Vicente Banzon  
Rosauro Llooc  
(vice Banzon, Oct. 29, 1986)  
Herminio Dizon  
Serafin Roman  
Alfredo Jaraba  
Mauro Roque  
Ruben Manrique  
Rosario Acuna  
FABC  
KB  
Secretary  
Fernando G. Roman

Term coverage: February 2, 1988 to July 30, 1992
Governor  
LEONARDO B. ROMAN
Vice Governor  
Serafin Q. Roman
Board members  
Fernando C. Austria  
Romeo C. Tagle  
Ben Alonzo  
Emiliano Reyes  
Mercedes Consunji  
Rogelio Roque  
Rose Acuña  
Victor Baluyot  
Crisostomo Banzon  
Amelita Sioson
FABC  
KB  
Secretary  
Fernando Roman

Term coverage: Sept. 1, 1992 to June 30, 1994
Governor  
ENRIQUE GARCIA, JR.
Vice Governor  
Efren Pascual Jr.
Board members  
Rod Izon  
Eduard Florendo  
Orlando Miranda  
Wilfredo Apostol  
Rogelio Roque  
Ben Alonzo  
Fernando Austria  
Gregorio Uy Jr.  
Emil Reyes  
Rose Acuña  
Ramonne Reyes
BMCL  
SK  
FABC  
Secretary  
Severino Salazar

RECALL ELECTION was held in December 1993.
### BATAAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

**Term coverage: July 1, 1994 to June 30, 1995**

**Governor**  
LEONARDO B. ROMAN  

**Term coverage: January 1, 1995 to June 30, 1998**

**Governor**  
LEONARDO B. ROMAN  

**Vice Governor**  
Serafin Q. Roman  

**Board members**  
- Rod Izon  
- Wilfredo Apostol  
- Orlando Miranda  
- Eduardo Florendo  
- Reynaldo Muli  
- Manuel Beltran  
- Lucila Payumo  
- Gregorio Uy  
- Angel Peligrio Jr.  
- Lolita Reyes  

**BMCL**  
Sergio Mariano  

**SK**  
Edward Roman  

**FABC**  
Aveto Banzon  

**Secretary**  
Severino Salazar  

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**Term coverage: July 1, 1998 to June 30, 2001**

**Governor**  
LEONARDO B. ROMAN  

**Vice Governor**  
Rod Salandanan  

**Board members**  
- Rod Izon  
- Wilfred Apostol  
- Orlando Miranda  
- Eduardo Florendo  
- Reynaldo Muli  
- Manuel Beltran  
- Lucila Payumo  
- Gregorio Uy  
- Angel Peligrio Jr.  
- Lolita Reyes  

**BMCL**  
Sergio Mariano  

**SK**  
Edward Roman  

**FABC**  
Aveto Banzon  

**Secretary**  
Severino Salazar  

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**Term coverage: July 1, 2004 to 2007**

**Governor**  
Enrique T. Garcia Jr.  

**Vice Governor**  
Benjamin Alonzo  

**Board Members**  
- Rod Izon  
- Eduardo Calimbas  
- Manuel Beltran  
- Fernando C. Austria  
- Eduard Roman  
- Orlando Miranda  
- Dante Manalaysay  
- Rodolfo Salandanan  
- Edwin Enrile  
- Eduard Florendo  
- Billy de Leon  
- Nicolle Galicia  
- Jose Villapando Sr.  

**BMCL**  
Sergio Mariano  

**SK**  
Edward Roman  

**FABC**  
Aveto Banzon  

**Secretary**  
Severino Salazar  

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On May 10, 2004, national and local elections were held. GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO won over FERNANDO POE JR. NOLI DE CASTRO was vice president. ENRIQUE “TET” GARCIA is new Governor of Bataan. Mayor Antonio Raymundo Jr. is re-elected Municipal Mayor of Orion.

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Gov. Tet Garcia, second from left, with President Gloria Arroyo during the groundbreaking ceremony of the Diosdado Macapagal Terminal in Puting Buhangin while Mayor Raymundo and Congressman Abet Garcia look on.
BATAAN CAPITOL

The CAPITOL is the building where the Governor, members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan and provincial government employees are holding office. The officers and staff of some national agencies have also their respective buildings situated inside the Capitol compound.

The present Capitol building is located in Barangay San Jose, Balanga City, beside the old Bataan National School of Arts and Trades (BNSAT). It was built and completed in June, 1950, during the first term of Governor Emilio Ma. Naval (1948-1951). The initial cost of the building was P235,945.00.

Part of the project was the construction of a straight asphalt road, measuring some 1.2 kilometers and 12 meters wide. It starts from the corner of the present Recar building to the gate of the Capitol compound. Capitol officials negotiated with the Balanga Diocese hierarchy to sell the vacant lot beside the church (in front of the present Banco Filipino, going west to Cataning River) which was used as approach ramp to what is now known as Capitol Road. The government spent P75,679.00 for the completion of the road project, excluding the cost of the initial wooden bridge which connected Rizal Street to the new road.

The Capitol Road replaced the old Ibayo-Tenejero road formerly used by people in going to the new provincial government building.

The ORIGINAL CAPITOL

The original Capitol building was erected in 1901 near the town plaza of Balanga, where the present Arcade is located. The semi-concrete building was formerly used as the residence-barracks of Captain John Gouldman and the soldiers of the United States Army who were assigned in the province in September, 1899. When Gouldman was appointed the military governor of Bataan (1901-1903), he used his residence as the Capitol building.

The said building expanded as new governors came by. It was burned to the ground in February, 1942 as a result of the saturated bombings by the Japanese bombers who used incendiary bombs against the American and Filipino troops assembled around the plaza of Balanga. At that time, the USAFFE soldiers were on their way to the different locations in Bataan. The bombings also burned and destroyed all building structures in the vicinity, except the Balanga Cathedral which only sustained minor damages.

The Bulwagan presently used as The Governor’s office
Of the four existing secondary schools in Orion, Bataan School of Fisheries (BSF) is the biggest learning institution in the municipality.

The school derives its existence from RA 4222, enacted on June 19, 1965, providing for the establishment of a fishery school in Bataan. This paved way for its operation which began in June 1971 by offering a high school curriculum to its 59 enrollees with emphasis on fishery education. Its opening was realized through the dedicated effort of its first school principal, Mr. Santiago C. Ramirez, who worked for its establishment in Orion in coordination with the local officials of the municipality with Mayor Gabriel L. Manrique at the helm.

In June 1975, it diversified its services by offering the Three-Year Diploma in Fishery Technology Course. To get attuned to the needs of the industry, it expanded its curricular offerings by offering other courses in its Post-Secondary Department which include Garments Technology, Hotel and Restaurant Technology and Computer Secretarial Course.

From its initial 59 enrollees in 1971, it now serves 1,196 secondary and 106 post-secondary students (Data for SY 2006-2007). Also from its initial eight (8) teaching and non-teaching personnel, it now has 53 teaching and 20 non-teaching personnel with four (casual) employees.

At present, Bataan School of Fisheries has listed 5,363 graduates in its secondary and 658 in its Post-Secondary Course. Bataan School of Fisheries spans in a 14-hectare reclamation area along the coastal area of Daan Bago and traversing northward at portions of Wawa and southward at Lusungan.

A protected mangrove farm consisting of 1.5 hectares is being maintained by the school in support of the government’s environment conservation program. The farm does not only protect....
…marine life in the area but also has become a haven for different species of birds.

BERNABE, Felizardo


Bernabe, a native of Barangay Lati, was in the ticket of mayoralty candidate Manuel R. Santos when he won as councilor for the first time in 1951. Even though Santos lost in his re-election bid in 1955, Bernabe still made it to the list of winning councilors during the said election. Bernabe remained loyal to Santos when the latter ran for mayor in 1959. Unfortunately, Santos picked out Dr. Jose Quicho as his runningmate and not Bernabe. The three of them won at the polls. Since then, Bernabe felt it was time to distance himself from Santos.

In 1963, Bernabe ran for vice mayor as runningmate of mayoralty aspirant Bernardo Pizarro. Newcomer Ricardo T. Angeles won against Pizarro. Bernabe won as vice mayor.

Four years later, Bernabe teamed up with mayoralty candidate Gabriel L. Manrique. Manrique won. Bernabe lost to Ernesto Pascual, Ricardo Angeles’ runningmate. Bernabe returned to the political scene in 1980 and ran for vice mayor together with mayoralty aspirant Ricardo T. Angeles. Both of them lost against Manrique and Dr. Antonio H. Mariano.
Barangay BILOLO is one of the six upland barangays of Orion. It is bounded on the north by General Lim (Kaput), on the south by Barangay Sabatan, on the east by Daan Bilolo and on the west by the Mariveles Mountain. It is accessible via the Roman Expressway and the Daan Bilolo Road.

The barangay has a total land area of 755.22 hectares and inhabited by 3,936 as per 2000 Census.

Bilolo was a former sitio of Barangay San Vicente, not Daan Bilolo. From the Spanish time until before the war, the barangay was only reachable through a couple of existing trailways connected to Orion’s main road (now called Bataan National Road). Bilolo only became easily accessible after the Daan Bilolo Road was fully developed as the main access road.

It resulted from the conversion of the former agricultural area south of San Vicente River into a residential community. The access road, however, remained a rough thoroughfare until 1973.

After the Roman Expressway was opened to motorists, the Daan Bilolo access road was upgraded little by little until it became a major artery. As a result, Bilolo practically became part of the town proper. Bilolo, in fact, became the gateway to the heart of the municipality coming from the Roman Expressway.

Bilolo has evolved into a new urban center with the establishment of mango buying stations, hardwares and other commercial stores.

The barangay has a day care center and a complete elementary school, two programs which the residents have been clamoring.
Residents of Bilolo have been asking for an elementary school since 1962 but the pleading had been denied many times due to financial constraints. It was former Mayor Gabriel L. Manrique who really worked hard for the establishments of the initial classrooms in Bilolo. Before his term as mayor ended in 1986, the BILOLO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL was already well established in a 2,018 square meter lot expropriated by the local government unit.

At present, the school is the third largest public learning institution in Orion next to Orion Elementary School and Capunitan Elementary School.

For the School Year 2005-2006, the school registered a total of 527 students. A big number of the pupils come from areas located along the Roman Expressway. The students’ educational needs are being provided by 14 regular teachers.

Dr. Elvira Mina is the current school principal. She replaced Dr. Elena B. Pizarro.
British Invasion

After the friendly relation between Spain and England was shattered in 1761, 13 English ships carrying 4,000 troops under the command of Admiral Samuel Cornish entered Manila Bay in September 28, 1762. Six days later, the Spanish authorities surrendered Manila to the British.

As food supplies coming from the Spanish-controlled bailiwicks were cut off, the British have decided to extend their invasion to the provinces surrounding Manila. It was at this point that they thought of invading Bataan. They crossed Manila Bay and landed in Orion in April 1763.

General Simon de Anda y Salazar, the appointed governor and captain-general, heard of the news and immediately ordered 60 of his men stationed in Guagua, Pampanga to proceed to Orion, Bataan. There they were joined by 200 natives armed with bows and arrows.

The British have already landed in Orion and were about ready to attack the town when they felt the presence of armed soldiers and natives guarding the length of the coastal area from Balut to Daan Bago. Frightened, the British ran to the beachhead in confusion. Unfortunately, there were a number of Spanish-Bataan men-of-war already waiting for them near the shore. There was a short exchange of fire which left seven British and one Bataan native dead. The British sailed away and did not return to Bataan after that incident.

RUDIARDO ANGELES BROWN (1930 -1973) is best remembered as the Philippine Navy officer who organized the Philippine Marines. He was a native of Orion.

Commodore Brown was born in Wawa, Orion on November 28, 1930 to parents Rodolfo Brown and Guillerma Angeles. He was baptized in Orion with the late Luz Banzon, wife of former Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay as his godmother. He graduated from the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) in 1955 and immediately joined the Philippine Navy. It can be said that at one time during his term as Commodore, current Philippine Senator and PMA alumnus Rodolfo Biazon served as his personal driver and aide.

Commodore Brown met his tragic death in Lamao, Limay on January 30, 1973. He perished in a plane crash near the Planters Products fertilizer plant in Limay. He was a passenger of a four-seater Cessna Beechcraft which overshot the Petron Bataan Refinery runway and hit the power lines supplying electricity to the plant. He was on his way to visit the DND Arsenal in Lamao at the time of the tragic accident. Three others, including television personality and Olympian shooter Chito Feliciano, died in the crash. His remains were buried in Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio. Brown was married to Anita A. Enriquez with whom he had 5 children: namely, Edgar, Sonny, Rosemarie, Bernard and Christopher.
BUENAVENTURA, Andres B.

ANDRES B. BUENAVENTURA, a recognized World War II veteran who fought in Bataan as a USAFFE soldier, was Orion’s vice mayor from 1956 to 1959. He served during the term of Municipal Mayor Alberto Cristobal.

Buenaventura, a native of Barangay Wakas, ran for vice mayor in 1956 as runningmate of Alberto Cristobal. Both of them won over their respective rivals, incumbent Mayor Manuel R. Santos and Vice Mayor Quirino Quicho.

When his term ended in 1959, Buenaventura took a rest from politics and watched from the sideline as vice mayoralty candidates, Dr. Jose Quicho and Celerino Reyes, fought against each other for the vacant post. Dr. Quicho won as vice mayor, together with comebacking Mayor Manuel Santos.

After the elections, Buenaventura was picked out by Mayor Santos as Orion’s municipal council secretary. He served from 1959 to 1963.

Calamity

CALAMITY is defined as a disaster of great magnitude that has occurred in a particular place. Some catastrophes either claim lives or destroy properties. For instance, when the whole town center of Orion burned to the ground on May 3, 1893, four days before the celebration of the annual fiesta, the emergency situation qualified as a calamity. Nearly 300 residential houses in Poblacion were totally razed by fire as the flame was fanned by strong winds coming from the sea. Only the houses of Teniente Mariano Angeles and Cabesang Rafael “Aping” Pangilinan which were made of concrete materials remained standing after the conflagration. In March 1955, Lusungan and Daan Bago were also razed by a big fire. Lati and Wakas were spared.

As far as history is concerned, Orion had suffered a long list of calamities, namely:

WAR. From 1800 to 1898, a big number of local residents in Orion were killed by Spanish authorities on mere suspicion of being disloyal to the government and the church. Cruel forms of punishments such as whipping using, the garrote, compulsory…..
CALAMITY

...labor and death were administered to the people for flimsy excuses. The fatality count increased during the revolution years, from 1896 to 1898. Suspected members of the Katipunan in Orion were immediately arrested, tortured and killed.

The Americans were no different from the Spaniards. During the Filipino-American War, a big number of Sto. Domingo residents were arrested and killed by the Americans and their Macabebe mercenaries.

Orion became a “no man’s land” during the early months of World War II. Nearly all houses in Poblacion were razed to the ground as a result of the scorched-earth policy by the invading Japanese Army. Properties were lost or destroyed because of the cruelty of war. The people lived in untold sufferings and miseries in the mountains together with the soldiers. More sufferings were encountered by those who evacuated to Hagonoy (Bulacan) Masantol (Pampanga) and other nearby places. Only a few survived hunger, disease and other sufferings.

The Banzai Counter-Attack that transpired in the old market site in Arellano, Orion during the Liberation period also caused a heavy toll on the lives of both the Japanese and the American Liberation Forces.

The War of 1941-1945 brought tremendous toll on the people. Almost one-half of the population of Orion died from hunger, sickness or from lethal war weapons. Many heads were decapitated for being guerilla suspects. Houses were set on fire during the advance and, later on, during the retreat of the Japanese Army.

EARTHQUAKE. The tremor which hit Orion in September 1852 not only sowed fear among the residents but also brought widespread destruction. Even the St. Michael The Archangel Parish was not spared. The church suffered major damages and its wooden trusses fell to the ground. Several minor earthquakes were felt in town during the last 100 years. On December 12, 1999, a tremor measuring 6.8 in the Richter scale hit Orion and the whole peninsula. It lasted for 23 seconds. Luckily, Orion came out unscathed but the St. Peter of Verona Church in Hermosa was heavily damaged. Its bell tower and roofing collapsed. A new church replaced the damaged building.
TYPHOONS. Orion was hit by a number of damaging typhoons.

Typhoon Yoling, actually a hurricane, was packed with 150 kilometer per hour winds which toppled houses, uprooted trees and plants, sunk boats and wounded local residents.

DISEASES. Cholera, typhoid fever and small pox were the most dreaded diseases during the later years of the Spanish regime. A big number of Orion natives perished while the epidemic was ravaging Manila and nearly the whole of Luzon. Malaria, on the other hand, claimed many lives during World War II. Filipino and American soldiers, as well as civilians, died by the hundreds as the fighting in Bataan went on.

The HIV virus, SARS, Dengue, Meningococcemia and lately, the H5NI (or bird flu virus) also brought real scare among the people. Luckily, Orion was spared from these health problems.

The Red Tide, the disease caused by a buildup of toxic organisms in fish and seashells, also brought a number of Orion residents to hospitals due to poisoning. Fortunately, no fatality was reported in the municipality. However, a big number of tahong producers in Orion were greatly affected by the scare even when reports of red tide poisoning happened in distant provinces. Fishermen, clam, oyster and mussel producers lamented over the big decrease in their income due to Red Tide.

INFESTATIONS. Orion was also hit by infestations brought about by rats, agricultural pests and even locusts. A locust infestation hit Orion in 1995. Damaged figure, however, was not made available for this book. Luckily, through the years, scientists have developed new technology to prevent these natural calamities.
DONATO CALIMBAS was the 7th mayor of Orion. He served from 1916 until 1918.

Calimbas hailed from Bantan. He, like Simeon Rodriguez, owned vast tracks of land in the northern part of Orion and in the southern portion of Pilar. He, and his older brother, former Mayor of Orion Francisco Calimbas were members of the local elite in Orion.

Unfortunately, Calimbas and his runningmate for vice mayor Nicasio Baluyut entered the political scene at a time when municipal-wide campaigning was a necessity. And even though the election process continued to be conducted through acclamation, the 1916 polls became the first most expensive election ever held not only in Bataan but throughout the whole country.

Calimbas won over incumbent vice mayor and mayoralty candidate Esteban Dupungan in many periphery barangays, as well as in the town proper. His runningmate, Nicasio Baluyut, also won at the polls.

Two years later, Calimbas and Baluyut lost to the tandem of Apronio Tambeng and Agapito Angeles for the mayoralty and vice mayoralty posts, respectively.

FRANCISCO CALIMBAS was elected 5th mayor of Orion and served from 1912 to 1914. He was also vice mayor from 1923 to 1925.

Former Mayors Mariano Angeles and Simeon Rodriguez were the ones who convinced Calimbas to run for the mayoralty post of Orion in 1912. With the support of the two political leaders, Calimbas easily defeated former two-time Vice Mayor Pedro Hipolito.

During his two-year term as mayor, Calimbas was traumatized by common people who started showing up at his house and office asking for favors and financial support. This made him think twice about his political career. In 1914, he chose his vice mayor, Francisco Urquisa, as the party’s new standard bearer. Urquisa ran for mayor and defeated the same Pedro Hipolito.

Calimbas only recognized the significance of being a politician when his younger brother Donato was elected as the 7th mayor of Orion in 1916. He saw how his brother spent a fortune during the campaign period and while administering the affairs of the town. He was also inspired to make a comeback. He ran for mayor in 1921, in place of the aging Simeon Rodriguez. Unfortunately, Orion residents did not forget his actuations during his first term. They voted for another candidate, Perfecto Evangelista, instead. The defeat, however, did not stop him from pursuing his political career. He ran and won as vice mayor in 1923 against Paulo Venegas. He served together with Mayor Fausto Paguio. In 1925, the Paguio-Calimbas tandem sought for a second term. Both of them lost to the Manuel R. Santos-Agustin Angeles team.
CALUNGUSAN is one of the so-called lowland barangays of Orion, just like its neighbors, Bantan, Camachile and Sto. Domingo. In addition to its rural status, Calungusan does not have a coastline to speak of. Camachile is its eastern boundary. It is bounded on the north by Bantan, and on the south and west by Sto. Domingo.

The barangay has a land area of 124.32 hectares and a population of 1,156 (as per 2000 Census). It is accessible through the Bataan National Road.

The barangay derived its name from the word *lungos* which means “a land projection from the sea.” Documents have it that Calungusan was the first barrio established under the jurisdiction of Abucay sometime in 1588, when Orion town proper was still non-existent. Orion was only established as a regular town on April 30, 1667. It was originally composed of Pandam and Calungusan.

It was the original settlers of Calungusan who cleared the Poblacion area where the Dominican priests have constructed the St. Michael The Archangel Parish.

During the Spanish period, Calungusan was planted to sugar cane. The original families who laboured in the fields were the Agustins, Marianos, De Leons, Gozons and Reyeses. Sugar cane became their primary source of livelihood. Unfortunately, drinking sugar cane wine became their favorite past time which made them drunk most of the time.

Another source of income of the people was the manufacture of indigo dyes. These were sold to Chinese merchants coming from Manila. *Cascos* moored in the river near the barrio transported the merchandise to Manila.

The residents suffered economic difficulties when the Japanese occupied the barangay during World War II. They were forced to evacuate to Mariveles or crossed Manila Bay to get away from the hostilities of war. For the last 60 years, however, peace prevailed in Calungusan. Surprisingly, the barangay is emerging as a future economic center of Orion.
CALUNGUSAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CALUNGUSAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL is the public learning institution serving the educational needs of children in the barangay. The school campus is strategically located at the corner of the Bataan National Road and Camachile Street, beside the Calungusan barangay hall.

It was former Mayor Manuel R. Santos who initiated the establishment of the barrio school sometime in 1960. The initial building was erected on a 5,000 square meter lot formerly used for agricultural purposes. It became a complete school in 1971. The school started as a primary school (grades I-IV). Children from Camachile enrolled at Calungusan Elementary School to complete their elementary education.

The two schools were once under one school head.

In August 1966, the Sangguniang Bayan of Orion wanted to rename the Calungusan school as Balagtas Elementary School, in honor of Francisco Baltazar. The proposal, first intended for Capunitan Elementary School, was shelved with finality after Balagtas was formally established as a regular barangay in 1972.

The present Calungusan Elementary School has eight rooms, six of which are being used as classrooms. It also has an open stage. However, on special occasions the school uses the nearby barangay covered court.

For the School Year 2005-2006, the school registered a total enrollment of 134 children. Carmelita F. Llamzon is the current school care-taker. She is being assisted by six regular teachers.
CAMACHILE is a coastal barangay located north of the town proper. It is bounded on the north and west by Calungusan, on the south by Sto. Domingo and on the east by Manila Bay. The barangay measures some 64.26 hectares and populated by 1,466 inhabitants, based on 2000 Census. The barangay is accessible from the Bataan National Road via the Camachile Street.

The name of the barangay came from the popular wild fruit tree called *camachile* which grows abundantly in the area.

Camachile was once part of Barangay Sto. Domingo until it was separated in 1907. Others claimed that the year of separation was 1914. Camachile’s formal recognition as a regular barangay was recorded in 1915, during the term of Maximino delos Reyes as governor and Francisco Urquisa as mayor of Orion. The barangay had been ruled by cabezas since the early Spanish period.

The original families who settled in Camachile include the Quichos, Marianos, Signios, Agustins, Reyeses, Davids, and Sto. Domingos.

During the Spanish time, inhabitants of Camachile were ordered by authorities to relocate to Sto. Domingo and Calungusan. Persons suspected of being involved in subversive activities were made to drink salt water called “tasik,” upon the insistence of the Macabebe mercenaries.

Prior to the advent of World War II, Camachile was designated as one of the training centers of civilians in the province who enlisted in the Philippine Army. After the fall of Bataan, the place became an evacuation center. Epidemics and other deadly diseases spread quickly and residents were forced to leave the area. The people only returned after the barrio was pronounced safe from diseases and from the ruthless Japanese soldiers.

On December 21, 1944, the Japanese soldiers returned to the barrio and burned the whole village. They rounded up some 87 suspected guerillas and executed them at the garrison in Balanga.

After the war, the residents were able to reconstruct their homes through war damage payments received from the American-Philippine War Damage Commission.
CAMACHILE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL takes care of the educational obligation of the local government to educate the children of this coastal barangay. The public learning center was formally established as a primary school (*Grade I to Grade IV*) in 1961 with Juan Quicho and Mrs. Malolis as the first teachers. It became a complete institution in 1980, during the term of former Mayor Gabriel L. Manrique.

Records showed that the Sangguniang Bayan of Orion already proposed the establishment of a school in Camachile as early as 1953. The project was only realized in 1958 with the opening of an informal classroom for Grade I pupils. The barangay chapel was initially used for the purpose. The first four-classroom building was finally constructed in 1961 after the local government expropriated a 3,928 square meter lot which was used as school campus.

The school held its first graduation exercises in 1980.

For the school year 2005-2006, Camachile Elementary School has eight regular classrooms and a total population of 138 pupils. Teresita R. Ordiales is the current school principal. Seven regular teachers are assigned in Camachile.
Candido Alejo was the vice mayor of Orion from 1934 to 1937 who served with Mayor Valeriano Soriano. He won over Mariano Mejia who was the runningmate of Jose Baltazar. In 1937 he lost to Estanislao Cuevas. He was also known as one of the incorporators of JRI-Orion.

The CAMINONG PUTOL INCIDENT refers to the ambush attempt committed by Filipino revolutionaries against American soldiers who were merely passing through Barangay Sto. Domingo on their way to Orion town proper. The Americans were involved in a pacification campaign in an effort to win the cooperation of the local residents.

It was American Major William Henry, Captain John Gouldman, Lieutenant Maury and Provost Marshall Lt. Miller and soldiers of the United States Cavalry who entered Sto. Domingo in September 1899 to establish contact with the people and town officials of Orion.

Local revolutionaries, informed in advance of the Americans’ plan to visit Orion, immediately set up an ambush position in Caminong Putol, Santo Domingo. The rebels were led by Gaudencio Mendigoren of Abucay and Francisco “Walang Sugat” Dinglas of Mariveles. The ambush was consummated and only lasted a couple of minutes. The Americans retreated without any casualty and got away from the pursuing rebels.

An hour later, the Americans returned with more troops, including Macabebe mercenaries who made a quick turn-about from their former Spanish masters. The Americans burned the whole barrio of Sto. Domingo after failing to locate the rebels who were responsible for the ambush. The Macabebes, on the other hand, committed a series of abuses on the local residents.
CAPUNITAN

CAPUNITAN is one of the so-called lowland barangays of Orion. It is a small parcel of land which was the subject of an old boundary dispute between Barangays Wakas, Lusungan and Lati. To resolve the issue, the former town officials declared the area as an independent barangay in 1875 and named it Capunitan.

Capunitan, according to local legends, was derived from the Tagalog word punit which means a parcel, a separate portion or partition cut from the whole. Legends have it that the barangay used to be a vast area but it got smaller as a result of the continuous erosion in the vicinity of Depensa caused by the strong waves coming from the sea.

The barangay is presently bounded in the north by Lusungan, and in the south by Daan Pare, and in the west by Villa Angeles. Manila Bay is its eastern boundary. It has a land area of 7.37 hectares which is inhabited by 3,900 people, the second biggest barangay in terms of population.

The Magtanongs and Arcegas were the first families to settle in the area. They were followed by the Cruzes and Guzmans. The community was established as a regular barrio in 1875 with Gregorio Isidro at its first teniente del barrio.

It was noted that the majority of Orion residents who joined the Philippine Revolution in the fight against Spanish tyranny from 1898 to 1901 came from Capunitan.

During World War II, inhabitants of the barrio evacuated to Hagonoy, Bulacan and nearby towns of Pampanga. Still, all the houses in Capunitan were burned down by the Japanese in April 1942 while the siege of Daan Pare was going on. About one-half of the residents perished during the entire war period.

Incidentally, Capunitan played as temporary host to the first public high school established in Orion. It was the late Mayor Gabriel L. Manrique who opened the first Orion Municipal High School then known as Balagtas High School inside the campus of the Capunitan Elementary School. It was inaugurated in June 1974. Unfortunately, the school closed in 1984 when the financial capability of the local government can no longer sustain its operation as a result of the on-going political crisis in the country.
CAPUNITAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL opened to the public in June 1950, during the term of Mayor Agustin L. Angeles (1946-1947, 1947-1951). He donated the initial lot he owned in Capunitan which was used as the school site. Just like the other barrio schools, it started as a primary learning institution offering classes from Grades I to II.

The school remained an incomplete school through the years. Children from Capunitan and the surrounding areas (Villa Angeles, Lusungan, Daan Bago and Wawa) continued to enroll at Orion Elementary School to finish elementary education.

It was Mayor Ricardo T. Angeles, of San Vicente, who completed the said school before his term ended in 1967. In fact, the Sangguniang Bayan of Orion had already passed a resolution to rename the school as Balagtas Elementary School. Unfortunately, it did not materialize because he lost to Mayor Gabriel L. Manrique of Daan Bago.

Mayor Manrique, realizing the importance of Angeles’ project, took good care of the Capunitan Elementary School. He built wider and better access roads leading to the school. In time, Capunitan Elementary School became the envy of other schools in town in terms of facilities and quality education. It was even used as site of the initial Orion Municipal High School, then known as Balagtas High School.

For the School Year 2005-2006, the elementary school had 22 teachers and 829 pupils. Carina F. Lulu is the school principal.

Orion Municipal High School

In 1966, Mayor Ricardo T. Angeles opened the first Orion Municipal High School inside the campus of Capunitan Elementary School. The so-called Balagtas High School operated for two years and then closed as the Bataan School of Fisheries in Daan Bago became operational.

In 1974, Mayor Manrique reopened the Orion Municipal High School in Capunitan. More classrooms and facilities were added to the school. The said high school closed for the second time in 1984 due to lack of funds.

TEODORO TRAJANO CATALAN (1920-1992) was the vice mayor of Orion from February 1988 until January 1992.

Catalan was born in Bilolo, Orion on May 11, 1920. He came from a poor family but was lucky enough to finish his elementary education. While in his teens, he worked odd jobs, mostly in the farm. Later on, he was employed at the Del Rosario Brothers Appliances in Balanga, starting as an ordinary helper. He was promoted to a managerial position after a few years as a result of his good performance.

After his stint at DRB, he became a sales agent of Ysmael Steel at the company’s regional office in Pampanga.

His first attempt at politics was in 1970 when he ran for a councilor’s seat in Orion. He belonged to the Liberal Party ticket of former Mayor Ricardo T. Angeles. It was Mayor Gabriel L. Manrique’s Nationalista Ticket which won at the polls. Catalan was the only survivor from his party. Surprisingly, he and Manrique became good friends and partymates.

Back in 1973, Catalan became the area manager of Palayan ng Bayan, a Green Revolution project initiated by First Lady Imelda Marcos. The project was launched in Hacienda Arrienda, Barangay Gen. Lim. It was acknowledged as one of the country’s success stories.

Manrique, Catalan and all members of the Sangguniang Bayan were removed from office in 1986 as a result of the EDSA Revolution. During the 1988 local polls, he ran for vice mayor, together with mayoralty aspirant Manuel C. Santos, Jr. Both of them emerged as winners.

Catalan, died on January 5, 1992 and lost the chance to run for re-election that same year. It was Virgilio, the eldest son, who continued the family’s political career. Virgilio was elected as councilor in 2001 and was re-elected in May 2004.

Orion has three cemeteries at present. These are the Evergreen Memorial Park, Orion Catholic Cemetery and Orion Municipal Cemetery (originally called Villa Panteon). These cemeteries are located in Barangays Balagtas, San Vicente and Sabatan, respectively. Ricardo Navarro and Francisco Urquiza donated the lots intended for the veterans but later on became the public cemetery. The existing arc was donated by La Dicha, a cigarette company.

The privately-owned Evergreen Memorial Park is the biggest of the three with an area of 41,786 square meters. The Catholic and Municipal cemeteries have 15,285 and 16,794 square meters, respectively.

The two public cemeteries are currently having shortage of burial vaults and improper road circulation. Hence, expansion or relocation of crowded burial vault is recommended. Proper road zoning is also recommended so that there would be suitable ingress and egress inside the two public cemeteries especially during All Souls Day in November.
Census

CENSUS pertains to the official count of the population in a locality. It also includes the characteristics of the resident, sex, family size and occupation. The National Statistics Office, which maintains a provincial office in Balanga City, conducts the census. The figures are used to determine how many members each congressional district will have in the House of Representatives.

The office also conducts various censuses of businesses, transportation, agriculture and fishing industry in a locality. These censuses are conducted more frequently than the population census. At present, census is being held every subsequent term of five years.

The first official statistics on Orion’s population was recorded at 4,000 in 1946. The 2000 census found the population figure at 44,067.

As per 2000 Census, Bataan has a total population of 557,659. District One has 255,384 residents, while District Two has 302,275.

Christianity

CHRISTIANITY is the religion based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. It is the major religion in the Philippines, where Orion, of the total population of 44,067, 38,000 or less are Roman Catholics.

Hinduism and Islam were believed to be the two major religions which reached the shores of Bataan. Muslim historians were one in saying that the religion of the early Malay settlers who set foot in Bataan and the rest of Luzon was Islam. They said it is the very reason why they call the present-day Christians who embraced the Islamic faith as “Balik-Islam.” Based on records the early natives who settled in many established communities in the country were branded as pagans by the early Spanish missionaries.

The Roman Catholic Church is the largest single religious group in Orion and in the rest of the country ever since. The other significant Christian groups include the Iglesia ni Cristo, Baptists, Church of the Latter Day Saints, Aglipays, Methodists...
CHRISTIANIZATION

...Jehovah’s Witnesses, Dating Daan, Born-Again Christians, living Church of God and Muslims.

For the Catholics of Orion, the St. Michael The Archangel Parish is the center of all religious activities. The first church was built in the town center, beside the present municipal building in 1667. It was rehabilitated in the late 1890s after it was devastated by an earthquake in 1852.

Outlying barangays like Bilolo, Bantan, Sto. Domingo, Daan Pare, Sabatan, Camachile, Santa Elena, Puting Buhangin and General Lim have established their respective chapels. The St. Peter and Paul Church in Calungusan is the second of the two parochial churches in Orion.

Christianization

CHRISTIANIZATION of the Filipinos was based on a reducción plan presented by various Spanish missions in the country and approved by the Synod of Manila in 1582. In establishing the pueblos (towns), Spanish priests were ordered to set up churches and chapels in areas under their jurisdiction. In addition, they resided where the church and convent were constructed. All new Christian converts were required to build their houses around the church. Even the unbaptized ones were told to do the same.

Aside from the church, missionaries assigned in Orion also built spacious living quarters where the sick natives were brought in and taken care of. In time, the natives realized that living closer to the center of the town was for their own welfare and protection.

The friars also led in building roads and bridges in Orion to connect swampy areas to the center of the town. They even designed and built warehouses called “kamalig” to shelter the rice and other farm products from the weather.

In addition, a systematic form of education was introduced by the friars. Residents of Orion, both young and old, were taught by the missionaries themselves the Christian doctrines, the three R’s, vocal and instrumental music and handicrafts in the conventos.

Years later, the friars were replaced by community workers (teachers, doctors, artists, nuns, engineers, writers, printers, musicians, architects and others) who were from Spain.

The Spaniards also utilized the novel sights, sounds, and even the smell of Christian rites and rituals – like the colorful and pompous processions, songs, candle-lights, elaborate costumes during the May festivals (Flores de Mayo or Santacruzan), the lighting of fireworks, the Senakulo and the Moro-moro (Christian versus Muslim conflict dramas) as strategies of enticing the Filipinos. Fiestas honoring the saints were also introduced.

All these strategies hypnotized the indios and attracted them to embrace the Catholic religion.
There are 32 major financial institutions in Orion. The list includes 14 cooperatives, 10 pawnshops, three lending investors and five banks. None of these banks, however, are of the national category.

There are several types of business services in the municipality. There are approximately 444 business services in Orion. These could be classified into 14 types. About 385 out of the 444 are sari-sari stores.

Other types of business services include school and office supplies, groceries, and agricultural equipment and supplies. There are also three gasoline stations in town: Petron, Caltex, and Total.

Meanwhile, there are 74 establishments offering personal services. These types of establishments include small canteens, beauty parlors, funeral parlors, and computer shops.

Some of the major commercial establishments in Orion include the St. Michael Hospital, Vercon’s, Bataan Commercial Enterprises, Elizabeth Grocery and Bakery, Fred’s Mart, Bravo Grocery and Sandigan Lumber.
CRISTOBAL, Alberto

ALBERTO CRISTOBAL was the 20th mayor of Orion. He administered the affairs of the municipality from 1956 to 1959.

Mayor Cristobal was a native of Barangay Daan Bago who made a name for himself as a successful businessman in Manila. He returned to Orion in 1951 on the advice of former Mayor Agustin Angeles who had decided not to run for a third term during the 1951 local elections. In his place, he supported the candidacy of Cristobal who ran against a veteran politician, former Mayor Manuel R. Santos. Santos and his runningmate, Quirino Quicho, emerged as the poll winners.

The loss however did not deter Cristobal in running for the same post in the 1955 election. He teamed up for the second time with Andres Buenaventura and challenged the leadership of Mayor Santos. It was a successful attempt. The Cristobal-Buenaventura tandem won at the polls.

The Cristobal-Santos political rivalry did not end after the 1955 polls. They met for the third time in 1959. The Cristobal-Buenaventura team was fitted against the Manuel Santos-Jose Quicho ticket. The polls did not favor the incumbents. Manuel Santos and Jose Quicho won in a landslide victory. In 1963, Cristobal stayed away from politics and annointed Bernardo Pizarro to run against Ricardo Angeles.

CUEVAS, Estanislao

ESTANISLAO CUEVAS was the Vice Mayor of Orion from 1938 to 1941 and 1941 to 1942. He was second in command during the administrations of Mayor Agapito Rivera, the 15th mayor, and Arsenio Joco, the 16th mayor of Orion.

Cuevas, a native of Lati, was the number one councilor of Orion from 1934 to 1937, during the administration of Mayor Valeriano “American Boy” Soriano. When Agapito Rivera of San Vicente challenged Mayor Soriano’s supremacy during the 1937 polls, he (Rivera) selected Cuevas as runningmate. The Rivera-Cuevas combination proved too dazzling and potent against the Soriano-Alejo Candido team. Cuevas outpolled incumbent Vice Mayor Candido by 1,102 votes.

Rivera and Cuevas sought re-election in 1941. Rivera was not lucky the second time around. He lost to Arsenio Joco of Wakas. Cuevas, on the other hand, was re-elected vice-mayor. Unfortunately, he was not able to finish his term due to the advent of World War II. He and his family evacuated to Hagonoy and spent the rest of the war years in Bulacan. Mayor Joco remained in Orion and served until 1945.

Cuevas returned to Orion after the war. He ran for mayor in 1947 as an independent candidate. It was a fight among incumbent Mayor Agustin I. Angeles, former Mayor Emiliano Navarro and Cuevas. In the end, it was Angeles who prevailed at the polls.
DAAN BAGO is a periphery barangay of Orion and at the same time a coastal community. It is bounded on the north by Wawa, on the south by Lusungan, on the east by Manila Bay and on the west by Lati. It is accessible via the Gabriel Manrique-Landing Street which connects the area to the Bataan National Road.

It was established as a regular barangay on July 24, 1961, together with Lati, Wakas and Wawa, as per Orion Municipal Council Resolution No. 40, dated January 1961. Its creation was initiated by former Mayor Manuel R. Santos and approved by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Bataan.

At present, Barangay Daan Bago has a total land area of 8.38 hectares. Orion River is its main river tributary. It is populated by 1,145 inhabitants.

Three of the well-known residents of Daan Bago include former Mayor Alberto Cristobal (1956-1959), Mayor Gabriel L. Manrique (1967-1986) and the current mayor of Orion, Antonio L. Raymundo Jr. (2001-2004 and 2004 to present). The barangay also hosts the Bataan School of Fisheries.

The barangay gained additional land mass starting in the early 1960s after the Bataan School of Fisheries was established on the eastern side of Juinio Street. The construction necessitated a major reclamation project in the barangay. The adjoining areas were also filled up and converted into a residential community.

To protect the residents from the tide coming from Manila Bay, the foreshore area was planted with mangrove trees which eventually became a fish sanctuary.

Daan Bago has a barangay hall, barangay plaza and a day care center. Children pursuing primary education enroll at Pablo Roman Elementary School, Capunitan Elementary School and Orion Elementary School.

**JUINIO STREET. The major street in Daan Bago where the Bataan School of Fisheries and other plushy residences are located.**
DAAN BILOLO is located at the town proper of Orion. It is bounded on the north by San Vicente, on the south by Daan Pare, on the east by Wakas, and on the west by Bilolo and Sabatan. The San Vicente River is its main water tributary. Daan Bilolo has a total land area of 44.09 hectares and inhabited by 2,494 people based on 2000 Census.

A major access road, starting from the Bataan National Road, passes through the length of Daan Bilolo going west. The said road was named Gabriel Manrique Street. It connects the national road to the Roman Expressway. The same road links Daan Bilolo to Barangay Bilolo.

During the Spanish time, Daan Bilolo was a part of Barangay Wakas (then known as Barangay de Hipolito dela Cruz). Only the eastern portion fronting the main road of Orion was dotted with houses at that time. It remained in such condition for many years even after the Orion Elementary School was established in the area in 1907.

Daan Bilolo was still non-existent as a barangay after new barangays were created in 1915 by former Governor Maximino delos Reyes. The former agricultural area remained a part of Barangay Wakas until Governor Gregorio Quicho, a native of Orion, decided to create Daan Bilolo as a regular barangay in 1928.

Barangay Daan Bilolo finally expanded after the existing trail-way to then Sitio Bilolo was widened and improved in the late 1930s. In a short period, new houses were erected in the southern bank of San Vicente River. The first ice plant in Orion named Alma Ice Plant was established in the area but no longer exist. In time, the place became a populated community.

Despite the earlier creation of Daan Bilolo as a barangay, former Mayor Manuel R. Santos, deemed it necessary to pass another resolution on July 24, 1961, proclaiming both Daan Bilolo and Wakas as separate and regular barangays.

In 1967, the Sangguniang Bayan of Orion also passed a resolution renaming Daan Bilolo as “Nayong Magiting.” But the residents protested and the resolution was shelved.

The barangay continues to play host to Orion Elementary School.
DAAN PARE is one of the southern barangays of Orion. It is bounded on the north by Wakas, Daan Bilolo and Sabatan, on the south by Sta. Elena and Puting Buhangin, on the east by Manila Bay and on the west by Bilolo. It covers an area of 1,258.19 hectares, the second largest barangay in the municipality, next to General Lim (Kaput). It is also the second largest barangay in terms of population, 3,593 people as of year 2000.

The name Daan Pare was attributed to the road which connects to Limay, a former barrio of Orion. It was ordered built by Fr. Miguel Fuster (parish priest of Orion from 1829-1846) to lessen the burden on people who had to use the sea route just to get to Limay during the Spanish period.

The old name of the place was Barangay de Lorenzo Calma, in honor of the acknowledged first settler and cabeza de barangay of the area. It became a regular barangay in 1915 and took the name Daan Pare.

Daan Pare initially covered a vast tract of land, to include the former sitios of Puting Buhangin, Pulong Bato, Mantigbe (now Sta. Elena) and Pandam. The original settlers of the place were Lorenzo Calma, Manuel Trajano, Hilario Cruz, Pantaleon Cruz, Alejo Agulto, Macario Agustin, Isidro Cruz, Julian Lopez and Julian Mendoza.

Daan Pare was the site of several ambuscades during the Philippine Revolution. It was in the same area called Pulta where Victor Baltazar and his 1,000 revolutionaries ambushed the troops of Spanish Lieutenant Gomez who were returning to Orion after conducting a survey of Limay on May 29, 1898.

It can also be told that then Major Manuel L. Quezon made Daan Pare his eastern bailiwick during the Filipino-American War. A man named “Buting” allegedly took care of him when he was afflicted with severe skin diseases.
DAAN PARE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The barangay became a hallowed ground in 1942 when USAFFE soldiers put up another fortification in the area after the fall of the Mount Samat Defense Line. It turned out to be the last line of defense by the USAFFE against the advancing Japanese Army. The Japanese also killed wounded USAFFE soldiers, barrio residents and evacuees they found in the area. Those who were caught hiding in the Mamala River area and nearby mountains were also killed.

After the war, the residents were able to reconstruct their destroyed or burned down houses through payments they received from the Philippine-American War Damage Commission. Even the school building in the barrio was reconstructed.

DAAN PARE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL was established in 1940 as a primary learning center (Grades I, II, III and IV). Mr. Tiangco was the school’s first teacher. The other pioneer teachers include Juan Quicho, Angelo Payumo, Ofelia Reyes, Erlinda Lopez, Preciosa Monterico, Asuncion Bautista, Juanita Andres, Miguel Cruz, Leticia Quicho and Gilda Paglingayen. The school initially served the children of Barangays Daan Pare, Sabatan, Sta. Elena and Puting Buhangin. It was used as barracks by Japanese soldiers during the war.

It was rehabilitated after the war and gradually became a complete elementary school in 1969 through the efforts of former Mayor Gabriel L. Manrique (1967-1986). From the original 5,000 square meter lot, the school currently has a 9,903 square meter campus. In 1983, Mayor Gabriel Manrique established a non-formal educational training center in welding for out-of-school youth inside the Daan Pare Elementary School. It remained open until 1986.

For the School Year 2005-2006, the 14-classroom school had an enrollment of 451 pupils. It increased to 462 during the SY 2006-2007. Arsenia N. Bundalian, the principal, and 14 regular teachers provide the educational needs of the children of Daan Pare.
THE BATAAN DEATH MARCH of 1942 is considered as one of the most brutal and inhumane acts committed by the Japanese soldiers on Filipino-American troops during World War II. The Bataan incident was not an isolated case. All over the Philippines, Filipino and American soldiers who surrendered to the Japanese were made to walk hundreds of miles and then incarcerated in different concentration camps. Ranking USAFFE officers, especially Americans, were brought to Camp O’Donnell in Capas, Tarlac for further confinement. The Death March is often compared to the atrocities brought upon millions of Jews who were gassed to death inside German camps at the height of the Nazi Occupation in Europe.

The infamous Bataan March started on April 10, 1942, the same day when General Edward P. King was brought to Balanga Elementary School to sign the final documents of surrender of the 50,000 surviving USAFFE soldiers who fought in Bataan from January to April of 1942.

Lt. Col. Fidel Ongpauco, in his book *They Refused to Die*, wrote that the USAFFE prisoners-of-war were told by the Japanese that they will march from Bataan to San Fernando, Pampanga in three days. Upon reaching Pampanga, the prisoners were sent home as “free men.” This explains why the prisoners gathered in Mariveles and Bagac joined the march without hesitation. Col. Ongpauco added that at the start, the Japanese showed unbelievable kindness to the prisoners including the civilians who also started returning to their homes after evacuating to Mariveles and other southern towns. The Japanese even helped some soldiers and officers who were too weak to walk. Some were loaded into trucks and brought to Balanga for medication.

At some point, however, some prisoners broke away from the line before reaching Pilar since very few Japanese guards were watching them while the march was going on.

The Japanese were alarmed. Upon reaching Pilar, all prisoners from Mariveles and Bagac were divided into groups of 100 and...
DEATH MARCH

...were separately placed under the watch of two Japanese guards each. In Balanga, they were given a pack of cooked rice for supper. They spent the night at the back of the Balanga Elementary School.

The “real” Death March, according to Col. Ongpauco, started after the prisoners left Balanga the following day. Prisoners who dared to run away from the line or refused to walk were clubbed with rifle butts and long bamboo sticks, sometimes to death. There were other inhumane treatments of prisoners during the last two stages of the march. Worst, the promise of freedom was not fulfilled by the Japanese when the prisoners reached Pampanga. Instead, the marchers were loaded into train coaches and sent to Camp O’Donnell concentration camps in Tarlac where more prisoners died.

Of the initial 60,000 Filipino and American soldiers who fought in Bataan, only 41,147 reached Capas, Tarlac. The missing 19,000 either died in fierce battles in the peninsula or during the Death March.

Gen. Wainwright, right, announces over the radio the total surrender of Filipino-American soldiers.
Before the arrival of the Spaniards, the early natives of Bataan and Orion, in particular, already had a syllabary, a list of syllables serving the purpose of an alphabet, which was probably of Sanskrit or Arabic origin. They wrote on the bark of trees, and on leaves and bamboo, using their knives and pointed sticks or iron as pens and the colored saps of trees as ink.

Just like the other towns in Bataan established by the Dominican priests, Orion natives were also given the opportunity to learn how to read, write and talk the Spanish way.

Formal education was introduced to Orion natives in 1668, a year after Orion was recognized as a regular town with St. Michael the Archangel as its patron saint. The priests themselves taught the young and the old how to read and write. Using the church as classrooms, the Kartiya was used as the first instructional material of the children. Later, it was replaced by the Katon which became the “beginning reading book” for all students. It consisted of pictures, prayers, religious songs, lessons on numeracy and some common words and sentences in Spanish.

Other lessons were geared towards the needs of the missionaries in their church activities. Praying and singing Church hymns were given primary importance. Different instructional materials were also used during the Spanish period. No municipal or barrio school existed in Orion during the period. Education was a complete monopoly of the church.

After the rehabilitation of the church which was damaged by a devastating earthquake in 1852, the whole ground floor of the convent was utilized as a parochial school. (It was the time when the municipal council had completed the construction of the first municipio of Orion in its present site.) Some 300 boys and girls residing in the town proper enrolled at the said school during its first year of operation. Another 100 children coming from the periphery barangays enrolled in the same school the following year.

Historical facts in the archives of the parish were totally lost due to a big fire which razed the town in 1893. Whoever was responsible for propagating education in Orion would remain anonymous.
The first public school opened in Orion in 1907, a few years after the arrival of the Thomasites. These American teachers and volunteers were tasked to propagate the American brand of education to the people. The Americans used education as a tool to colonize the country and at the same time to improve the living conditions of the Filipinos.

The Orion Elementary School, which opened in Daan Bilolo in 1907, then part of Barangay Wakas, became the major learning center in the municipality. It was here where the Thomasites and their Filipino counterparts fostered the learning of the American language which explained why their first set of pupils became good English speakers in terms of diction, enunciation and pronunciation. Soon, more public schools were opened in the barrios to bring free education to everybody. Co-education was also introduced.

Orion had its first high school, the privately-owned Jose Rizal Institute which opened formally in 1926. In 1968, JRI opened its kindergarten and elementary schools. It was followed by the Bataan School of Fisheries in Barangay Daan Bago in 1971.

It was only in 1968 that the first Orion Municipal High School (better known as Balagtas High School) was established in Barangay Capunitan, inside the campus of the Capunitan Elementary School. The school closed 10 years later. The present Orion National High School opened in Barangay Balagtas in June 2002.

At present, Orion has 14 public and five private elementary schools, one national, one vocational and three private high schools.
Orion is collecting an average of three to four tons of mixed garbage daily. Wastes collected come from the households, commercial and industrial establishments, farms and agricultural areas and institutional sources such as hospitals, schools, churches and other establishments.

The bulk of the waste collected comes from domestic sources which is 70 percent of the total volume. Yard and fields wastes make up a large portion (33%) of the wastes generated from the locality. It means that at least one-third of Orion’s waste is biodegradable and thus, has good environmental implication.

Wastes coming from the commercial and industrial sources contribute 25% to the total volume. The Orion Public Market alone shares 11% to the total waste generated in the locality. Worst, the market waste is mixed with non-biodegradable waste such as plastic containers and styrofoam as a result of non-compliance of some stall owners.

The rest of the collected wastes comes from institutional sources.

Garbage collection is currently being done by the municipal government. Only the waste from Barangay General Lim is not collected by the three available garbage trucks.

Animal feeding is also a popular manner of disposing kitchen garbage in Orion. This is mainly due to a high percentage of the population involved in piggery and poultry. About 10% of all the households in Orion, feed their food leftover to animals. Pick-up service accounts for 26% of garbage truck collection disposal while waste burning ranks third at 21%.

Still, there is a need for more orientation on segregation as prescribed in the solid waste management (SWM) program of the municipality. In addition to a monitoring office, funds are also needed to procure segregation equipment.

The SWM project has already been implemented in Orion but the ningas cogon attitude prevails at the barangay level. Sustainability of this project is a major concern of the municipality.
PERFECTO EVANGELISTA was the 10th mayor of Orion. He served from 1921 to 1923. He defeated Aproniano Tiambeng, Orion's 8th mayor.

He replaced Mayor Simeon Rodriguez who did not seek re-election. Also elected as vice mayor was Paulo Venegas. In his re-election bid in 1923, Evangelista was defeated at the polls by Fausto Paguio, a noted musician-composer.

FULGENCIO SANTOS FACTORAN JR. (1943- ) is a native of Orion who served the country as Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) from 1987 to 1992, and Deputy Executive Secretary of former President Corazon C. Aquino (1986-1987).

Atty. Factoran was born on November 3, 1943 to parents Atty. Fulgencio Factoran Sr. and Gloria Santos, a former school principal. He earned his degrees in Bachelor of Arts in Humanities from the University of the Philippines-Manila in 1964 and Bachelor of Laws, *cum laude* and *valedictorian*, from UP-Diliman in 1967. He was a working student during his college days. He passed the Bar examinations in 1968. He enrolled at the Harvard University, USA, where he finished his Master of Laws in 1969.

Upon his return to Manila, he became a legal staff member of the Siguion Reyna Law Office (1969-1975) and later on, as partner in the Tanjuatco Oreta, Tanjuatco and Factoran Law Offices (1975-1986). It was during this period that he co-founded the Movement of Attorneys for Brotherhood, Integrity and Nationalism Inc. (MABINI) and served as one of its past presidents.

He took a break from private law practice after being appointed as Deputy Executive Secretary in the Office of the President of the Philippines from 1986 to 1987. Soon after, he served as DENR Secretary and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Electrification Administration (NEA) until 1992.

From 1992 to 1996, he was the chairman of the Board of Advisers of the Foundation for the Philippine Environment (FPE), the largest non-government organization-managed endowment fund for the environment in the Philippines. He also established the Factoran and Associates Law Offices. His business affiliations include directorship in the Central Azucarera de Tarlac, Geologists Inc., GAIA South Inc., and the Equitable PCI Bank, Inc., the third largest commercial bank in the Philippines.

He remains active in non-government organizations (NGO) work, being the chairman of the Board of Advisers of FPE, director of the Philippine Educational Theatrical Association (PETA), and the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility (CMFR), among other organizations.
FALL OF BATAAN, known today as Araw ng Kagitingan, is a national holiday. It is celebrated on April 9 of each year. Ironically, it was one of the significant events which led to the conquest of the Philippines by the Japanese Imperial Army.

On April 9, 1942, exactly four days after the Japanese soldiers reached the top of Mount Samat in Pilar, General Edward King ordered all USAFFE soldiers to abandon the Orion-Bagac Defense Line. He then proceeded to Lamao and signed the initial documents of surrender of Bataan. On April 10, he signed the final documents inside the grounds of the Balanga Elementary School. That same day, the infamous “Death March” started.

Postwar Philippine presidents like Elpidio Quirino and Ramon Magsaysay had earlier declared April 9 as a special holiday but only in Bataan. The Fall of Bataan was finally immortalized by then President Carlos P. Garcia who declared April 9 as a national holiday in 1959. The focal point of the annual celebration was the Libingan ng mga Bayani formerly located at the foot of Mount Samat. Civic parades, complete with colorful floats, were also held in Balanga.

For many years, the Philippine Government had requested the United States Battle Monuments to allocate funds for the construction of a memorial in Bataan. Even the Commission on Tourism also wanted to construct a shrine in Bataan, not in Corregidor as earlier proposed by American and Filipino veterans.

In 1965, US Ambassador William McCormick Blair, Jr., upon the invitation of Governor Pedro Dizon, came to Balanga to be part of the celebration. The following year, 1966, newly-elected President Ferdinand Marcos also came to Balanga to join the festivities. Later in the day, he declared Mount Samat as a national shrine. Immediately the construction of the road going to the summit of Mt. Samat began. The actual construction of….

_Bataan symbolizes courage, the courage of those men who offered all life, all dreams, and all illusions for their country and their people._

_Ferdinand Marcos, April 1976_
FALL OF BATAAN

....the Dambana ng Kagitingan started in 1967. This was a monumental cross built to honor the Filipino and American fighters of World War II. It was a Department of Defense project and the Department of Public Works was assigned as project manager. The project’s architect was Chito del Castillo.

It was not an easy project, partly because of the terrain. But what made it more difficult was the organizational confusion at the Department of Public Works. When the project ran into some major difficulties, Marcos called in the David M. Consunji Inc. (DMCI) to complete the project.

The Mount Samat Shrine was inaugurated on April 9, 1969 with Marcos as guest of honor. Since then, the Fall of Bataan was religiously celebrated as an annual national holiday.

On April 9, 2006, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo joined the 64th celebration of the Fall of Bataan. A year earlier, it was Vice President Noli de Castro who visited Mount Samat as guest speaker.

The Bataan provincial government, through the Bataan Tourism Council Foundation, Inc., prepared a week-long activity for the said Bataan Day. The undertaking included a bike race, motorcade, province-wide film showing, trade fair, chorale and folkdance competitions, LakBYKE Mabuhay Tour, parade of floats, a night of tribute to war veterans, seafood festival, wreath-laying, unveiling of Diva ng Bataan markers and a concert by the Manila Symphony Orchestra.
FIESTA or feast day in the Philippines is of religious origin. It is generally held in honor of the patron saint of a particular locality. In Orion, the feast of St. Michael The Archangel is on September 29 but celebrated on May 8 of each year.

At present, 12 barangays are involved in the annual May 8 fiesta of Orion, namely Arellano, Bagumbayan, Balagtas, Balut, Daan Bago, Daan Bilolo, Lati, Lusungan, San Vicente, Villa Angeles, Wakas and Wawa.

The remaining 11 barangays have different fiesta dates.

Fiesta is a wonderful experience for everybody. A week-long program and lots of activities are planned and held for the enjoyment of local residents and tourists. There are fairs, bargain sales and craft shops, amateur singing competitions, dance contests, “Lakambini ng Udyong” beauty pageant, and various contests for all ages. Musical and variety shows are also held at the town plaza on the eve of the fiesta or the following night. La Torre, a drill and majorette competition and Serenata a band competition, are also parts of the celebration.

Brass bands, drum and bugle corps, free foods and drinks, ati-atihan and street dancing are the other ingredients of a true Filipino fiesta culture.

Orion is noted throughout Bataan for its most festive and lavish fiesta celebrations due to the presence of numerous and well known bands hired for this occasion.

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Fishing Industry

- Manila Bay is the main source of livelihood of Orion fishermen.
- Some 255 hectares of Orion waters are utilized for fisheries.
- Orion catch is estimated at 625 metric tons per year.

Orion is a coastal town. It is rich in seawater and freshwater species of fish. Manila Bay, its eastern boundary, provides the fishermen and the residents with a variety of fish like asohos, tamban, galunggong, lapu-lapu, swordfish, anchovy, shark, stingray, tuna, mackerel, kabase, kapak, crabs and shrimps, as well as squid and even porcupine fish (butete).

Fishermen from Barangay Bantan down to Puting Buhangin use motorized and non-motorized fishing boats or bancas to catch fish. A lot of them use the legal methods of catching fish such as panghoya, panti, bobo, safa (bucatot), long line, short line (bingwit), dala, baklad, pangilaw, pamaros, and many more.

To date, some 931 families are involved in brackish water fishing while six are involved in freshwater fishing. Approximately some 255 hectares of Orion waters are utilized for fisheries. There is an estimated catch of 625 metric tons per year.

The fisherfolks of Orion utilize 424 bancas, 82 percent of which are motorized.

Local fishermen oftentimes complain about big-time trawlers who use fine nets and highly luminous lights, to the detriment of the small-time fisherfolks. Occasionally, sea piracy poses a problem to local folks.

Fish corrals (baklad) are common sights along the shores of Orion. In Bantan and Calungusan, mussel culture is a thriving business. Others prefer to collect seaweeds (raw material in making gulaman) and alamang along the shores of Manila Bay.

Fishponds, meanwhile, are steady sources of cultured bangus, tilapia, prawns and mud crabs (almamango). These fishponds are situated along the whole length of Orion coastline.

Meanwhile, Orion also has freshwater fish which are found in the rivers, streams, reservoirs and even irrigation canals of the town. Bulig, dalag, catfish, tilapia, pla-pla, carpa, biya, lulungi, kapak, babanga, pabuka (eel), frogs and shrimps (ulang) thrive in these bodies of water.

The local government has initiated several dredging programs for the Orion River to benefit the local fishermen. A multi-purpose cooperative was also established for them. Former Mayor Manuel Santos Jr. completed the Orion fish port in Barangay Wawa in 1998.
EMILIO ANGELES GANCAYCO (1921- ) is a native of Orion who served as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court from January 12, 1987 until August 22, 1992.

Justice Gancayco was born in Wakas, Orion on August 20, 1921. He completed his Bachelor degrees in Arts, and Laws from the University of the Philippines. He passed the Bar examinations in 1947.

Gancayco started working for the government in 1947 when he was employed as a claims attorney at the Judge Advocate General Office (JAGO, AFP). He also became a government prosecutor for many years. He was named as Special Prosecutor of the Year in 1960. He was appointed Associate Justice of the Court of Appeals on June 19, 1972.

It was President Corazon C. Aquino who elevated him to the Supreme Court as Associate Justice in January 1987. He was involved in many landmark decisions of the highest court of the land whose first Chief Justice was Cayetano Arellano, another native of Orion.

Gancayco retired from government service on August 22, 1992. He, however, continued practicing his profession and currently serves as a professorial lecturer in several Law colleges like the University of the Philippines, University of the East and University of Santo Tomas.
ALBERT SANDEJAS GARCIA (1970- ) is the fourth congressman of the Second Congressional District of Bataan. He was elected for a three-year term in May 2004. Prior to his current position, he served as mayor of the City of Balanga from 1998 to 2001 and 2001 to 2004.

Congressman Garcia was born in Manila on February 1, 1970. His parents are current Bataan Governor Enrique T. Garcia Jr. and Victoria Sandejas-Garcia. He took up AB Philosophy and Letters from the De La Salle University. Immediately after graduation, he worked as chief of staff of his congressman-father in Congress.

At age 28, he entered the political scene and was elected mayor of Balanga in May 1998. On December 30, 2000, he successfully elevated Balanga into a component city through the support of Congressman Tet Garcia. He ran unopposed during the 2001 local elections.

As mayor, he established the Taxpayers One-Stop Shop of Balanga, a project which won the most-coveted League of Cities of the Philippines’ Best Practices Award. He also instituted the Bataan Crime Laboratory, City Marshalls Office, COPS Kababayan Centers and other major programs which benefited the residents of the city. In 2002, he was chosen as one of the top five city mayors of the country, a nationwide search sponsored by the Local Government Leadership Award.

In May 2004, he ran for congressman against the three-term Bataan Governor Leonardo B. Roman. The fight was close but it was Garcia who prevailed at the polls. Congressman Garcia has already initiated the establishment of a P15 million drug rehabilitation center in Pilar, Bataan. On May 29, 2006, he and President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo led in the groundbreaking ceremonies for the P35 million Diosdado Macapagal Terminal Port in Puting Buhangin, Orion.

Garcia is still a bachelor at age 36.
ENRIQUE TUASON GARCIA JR. (1940- ) is the current governor of Bataan, the 28th in the long list of governors who led the province to progress and prosperity. He was also the 26th governor after getting elected in 1992. Unfortunately, he was not able to complete his first three-year term after he was subjected to a Recall Election in December 1993.


Born in Balanga on September 13, 1940 to parents Enrique Garcia Sr. and Mely Tuason, Tet finished his Bachelor of Arts degree at the De La Salle University in 1963. He continued his studies and completed Commerce, major in Accounting. After a stint with ESSO Philippines, he put up his own companies, the VicGar Trading and the Garcia, Lava and Associates, an accounting office based in Manila.

He was a virtual political neophyte when he ran for congressman of the Second Congressional District in 1987. With the support of former OIC-Governor Leonardo B. Roman, Garcia won over seven other contenders for the post. But he broke ties with the Romans when he fought, single-handedly, against the proposed relocation of the petrochemical plant to Batangas after it was approved to be established in Bataan.

The 1992 local polls turned out to be the day of reckoning between the Garcia and Roman families. Garcia ran against incumbent Governor Roman for the gubernatorial post. It was an uphill climb but in the end, Garcia won overwhelmingly with a margin of 15,000 votes.

Garcia instituted reforms at the Capitol upon assumption of office but a Recall movement was launched against him in 1993. A special election was held in Bataan in December 1993. Garcia lost the fight but winner Leonardo B. Roman was only able to assume office in July 1994.

Garcia returned to Congress in 1995 after defeating incumbent Representative Dominador Venegas of Orion. He was re-elected in 1998, and in 2001. On his second term, he initiated the conversion of Balanga into a component city with the support of his son, former Balanga Mayor and current Congressman Albert S. Garcia. The conversion was realized on December 30, 2000 when the capital town came to be known as the City of Balanga.

Congressman Garcia is also credited for the nationalization of the former Bataan Provincial Hospital and the establishment of the Bataan Polytechnic State College. He was working on the conversion of the said college into a university when his third term expired.

In 2004, he aspired for the gubernatorial post, while his two sons – Albert and Joet – ran for congressman of the second district and city mayor of Balanga, respectively. He won against Vice Governor Rogelio Roque of Limay. Mayoralty-candidate Joet Garcia lost to Melanio Banzon Jr.

Free college education, fiscal management and environmental protection are just three of the major concerns of the Garcia administration.
GENERAL LIM, formerly known as Kaput (or Capot), is one of the upland barangays of Orion. It is bounded on the north by Barangays Nagwaling and Diwa (Pilar), on the south by Bilolo, on the east by Sto. Domingo, Sabatan and Daan Pare, and on the west by the Mariveles Mountain. It has a total land area of 2,734.68 hectares, the biggest among the 23 barangays of Orion. The population tally of the barangay reached 2,301 in 2001.

The barangay was formally established on March 10, 1966 and was named after General Vicente Lim, a Filipino general who used the Capot Hills area as his headquarters during the early months of World War II. It was one of the sites of the bloodiest encounters between the USAFFE and Japanese soldiers. A marker was put up in Barangay Kaput to honor the brave men and women who died in the area during the war.

Barangay General Lim is generally an agricultural area. Rice and fruit trees are the common farm and forest products. Only recently, Gen. Lim was designated as an integrated agro-industrial zone. It has attracted San Miguel Foods Inc. to locate its model broiler farm in this barangay.
GENERAL VICENTE LIM (1888-1944) was among the host of heroes who fought in Bataan during World War II. He was the commanding general of the 41st Division which was involved in some of the bitterest fightings during the campaign against the invading Japanese Imperial Army. The same division was initially stationed in Mabatang, Abucay, and later in Pilar and Orion (from Barangay Alauli and Capot Hills to Pantingan) during the last days of intense assaults on Mount Samat. The Capot Hill was the command post of General Lim which explains why it was named in his honor after the place was created as a regular barangay of Orion.

Gen. Lim was born in Calamba, Laguna on February 24, 1888. In 1914, he became the first Filipino to graduate from the United States Military Academy (also known West Point). Devoting himself to the military profession in the years that followed, he graduated from the Advanced Infantry School at Fort Benning (Georgia) in 1927, and the Fort Leavenworth General Staff Course.

Lim was already in command of the 41st Division when the war broke out. The division left Southern Tagalog when War Plan Orange 3 took effect. Upon reaching Bataan, Gen. Lim assigned his troops at the frontline of the Mabatang Defense Line. The division easily earned the reputation as the Rock of Bataan for its steadfastness in battle.

During a lull of one and a half months, when the Japanese forces withdrew out of range of USAFFE artillery, it was General Lim who suggested that the Filipino-American forces launch a counter-attack, break out of Bataan and retake Manila. His plan, Lim argued, would be better than staying in Bataan.

Unfortunately, General Douglas MacArthur, vetoed the plan of the Filipino general.

Lim’s unit was mercilessly battered by superior enemy forces while defending Mount Samat. He survived the fighting in Bataan as well as the mass surrender of the USAFFE soldiers. Captured and later released, he conducted underground anti-Japanese work. In June 1944, he and some companions sailed from Batangas to rendezvous with a submarine which will take them to Australia. They were captured along the coast of Mindoro, imprisoned and tortured. The exact date and manner of his death, including his resting place in Mindoro remained a mystery up to the present time.
GENERAL LIM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, formerly Kaput Elementary School, is one of the major contributions of former Mayor Ricardo T. Angeles to the children of Barangay General Lim. He opened the barangay’s primary school in 1965.

Dr. Jose Quicho, former vice mayor of Orion (1959-1963), donated the 1,893 square meter lot used as school campus in Gen. Lim. Immediately, Mayor Angeles ordered the construction of the initial two-classroom building which benefited the residents of the barangay. In the past, the children had to walk to Nagwaling, Pilar for their primary education.

Meanwhile, it was former Mayor Gabriel L. Manrique (1967-1986) who completed the Gen. Lim Elementary School.

The total enrollment of the Gen. Lim Elementary School for the School Year 2005-2006 was registered at 348 pupils. Gilda P. Tiglao is the current school head teacher. Nine regular teachers are assigned in Gen. Lim.
ERLINDA ESCALADA-GUZMAN (1935- ) was Orion’s vice mayor from 1988 to 1992. She is a retired head nurse who served at the Orion Rural Health Unit.

Mrs. Guzman was born in Puerto Rivas, Balanga City, on May 31, 1935. Her parents were Gabriel Pajarin Escalada and Cornelia Pangilinan. She finished her Nursing course from the University of the Philippines in 1960. It was in Orion where she met and married Dr. Benjamin Guzman of Orani who also served as Municipal Health Officer of Orion. She also served as director of the former Bataan Electric Cooperative and PENELCO.

Upon retirement, Mrs. Guzman ran for Vice Mayor of Orion, together with former OIC-Mayor Alfredo Pangilinan. He lost but Mrs. Guzman won over her rivals, former Vice Mayor Teodoro T. Catalan and former Councilor Edgardo C. Flordeliz.

She sought re-election in 1998 as runningmate of Mayor Antonio H. Mariano. Both of them lost to the tandem of Manuel C. Santos Jr. and Antonio L. Raymundo Jr. She retired from politics after the political debacle.

GUZMAN, Erlinda E.

HEALTH is the state of being well and free from illness.

In Orion, health services are being offered by public and private medical institutions situated within the municipality. St. Michael Hospital is a private two-storey hospital with 19-bed capacity. It is located in Barangay Wakas, in a lot formerly occupied by the old Orion Public Market. In addition, there are six private medical clinics in various parts of the town and a number of dental clinics. At the outskirts of Orion, there is the Bataan General Hospital and other private hospitals and clinics in Balanga City.

The local government of Orion also maintains one Rural Health Unit (RHU) in Barangay Wawa and 13 barangay health stations (BHS). The RHU serves the residents of Arellano, San Vicente, Balagtas, Bagumbayan, Balut, Daan Bilolo, Lati and Wakas. The RHU and BHS give free consultations to patients on Dental and General Health Services. Special services like…..
...general emergency, pediatrics, obstetric and gynecology and laboratory such as urinalysis, fecalysis and CBC are also being administered by government health personnel.

The RHU and BHS also complement hospital services with the implementation of the referral system in health care delivery. All trained midwives stationed at their respective barangay health stations serve as first line contact of patients. They are allowed to give advices and medications on minor ailments. Cases which are not within their scope are referred to nurses or doctor.

In addition to these, they also perform field works to carry out the following functions: Maternal and Child Care, Immunization, Family planning services, and other functions as may be assigned by the municipal health officer (MHO).

The barangay health stations are located in Arellano, San Vicente, Villa Angeles, Balagtas, Daan Bilolo, Lati and Wakas.

Congressman Abet Garcia (2nd District of Bataan) and Vice Mayor Virgilio Isidro of Orion, lead the awarding of Philhealth Card to the residents of Orion.
There were about 8,735 households in Orion in 2000 having their own housing units. The houses were classified according to building types about 90% of which are one to two-storey single detached houses while the rest are apartment types.

Of the total housing units, 49% are owned and/or being amortized while 11% are rented. Additional 29% are rented for free with consent of the owners. Another 11% are rent-free without consent of the owner.

In terms of the age of the house, about 48% were just recently constructed (1996-2000) while about 11.4% were built in the year 1980 onwards. Some 25% were built before 1980. The remaining 15.6% do not have records of their age.

Early houses in Orion were generally built to suit the tropical climate. They were made of wood, bamboo and nipa palm or wild grass (cogon). The bahay-kubo was the basic design for the rich and poor classes of Filipinos of that time.

The houses were set upon stakes (arigues), at least a meter above the ground. Each house is separate. In the lower part are enclosures made of stakes and bamboos. One ascends into the...
...house by means of ladders that can be drawn up. There are open galleries (*batalanes*) located at the rear or on the side of the house, which are used for household duties. There is little adornment and finery in the house.”

The arrival of Spanish architects and engineers and other community workers into the country (1700s) changed almost everything, including the architectural design of houses. Rich families of Orion living in the center of the town started constructing their houses based on the designs prevalent in Manila. The bahay-kubo was refined, expanded and developed into the *bahay na bato* with a wide *azotea*. Stones or *adobe* replaced the regular wood and bamboo stakes. Walls were either made of stone slabs and/or cut lumbers. Clay tiles replaced the nipa roofings. Later on, galvanized iron roof sheets were introduced. In time, Orion was adorned with bigger, higher and more expensive residences.

By 1930, there were at least 700 houses in Orion. Those erected within the Poblacion were of the *bahay na bato* type, complete with porches and even carports. But the average bahay-kubo continued to outnumber the modern residential houses.

The present design of houses in Orion continues to suit the tropical climate, although a bigger number are semi-concrete residences with spacious rooms and concrete fences. Some were designed by trained architects. Still, only the architectural concept or layout changed. The bahay-kubo remained the basic pattern especially in areas far from the center of the town.

There was a dramatic increase in the number of housing units in Orion for the past three decades. It was due to the establishments of several subdivisions in various parts of Orion.

**Iglesia ni Cristo**

The IGLESIA NI CRISTO (INC) is the second largest religious assembly in Orion. Founded by the late Minister Felix Manalo in 1914, the congregation follows religious practices based on the teachings found in the Holy Bible.

Vivorey Santos is the present district minister of the INC in Bataan. He took over the post left by Melanio Bautista.

The religion had its humble beginning in Bantan where a chapel was built in early 1936. While the Tapulao chapel in Orani is believed to be the first locale established in Bataan, the Bantan locale in Orion is said to be the second oldest INC center in the province.

There are four other INC chapels in Orion. These are located in Wakas (town center), Sabatan, Upper Bilolo and General Lim. The local ministers include Bienvenido Baclaan (Bantan), Alex Dingal (Gen. Lim), Mar Balana (Bilolo), Rene Ocampo and Willy Dalusong (Sabatan), and Samuel Mercado (Wakas).

Orion has an estimated 2,133 members at present.
Spanish Regime. From 1565 to 1898, the Philippines was administered by a gobernador y capitan-heneral (governor-general) who represented the Spanish king through the vice-royalty of Mexico.

On the provincial level, it was the governor (alcalde mayor) who ran its affairs. He received his appointment from the governor-general. Only a Spaniard can be a provincial governor. He was the judge, inspector of encomiendas, chief of police, collector, vice regal patron and capitan-heneral of the province. Records revealed that one Jose dela Guardia ruled the province in 1893.

On the municipal level, the “little governor” was the gobernadorcillo who headed the pueblo or municipio. It was adopted as a political system in 1778. Any Filipino or Chinese mestizo, at least 25 years old, literate in oral or written Spanish and who had been a cabeza de barangay (barrio administrator) for four years could be a gobernadorcillo. He was elected to the position during a Gran Tribunal attended by the incumbent cabezas and other respected citizens with high social status in the municipality. His term of office was a minimum of two years. Also elected were the teniente mayor (vice-mayor) and the cordilleros (councilors). Their respective roles were highly significant in a town.

The gobernadorcillo was assisted by three super numerics or inspectors (tenientes de justicia); constables (aguaciles); four tenientes segundo; and a secretary (directorcillo).

But the town’s parish priests, mostly Caucasians, were not only the spiritual guides of the people, but in effect were the true rulers in the municipalities. They controlled the fundamental forces of society.

Barrio government was headed by a cabeza de barangay whose main role was as tax and contributions collector for the gobernadorcillo.
American Regime (1898-1935). Another form of politics was introduced by the Americans. It was patterned after their own form of government.

In the executive branch, there was a change from an American to a Filipino majority in the Philippine Commission in 1913, and in the Council of State and the Board of Control in 1918. The Civil Service became, by 1913, 70 percent Filipino. By 1921, the Civil Service was about six percent American. The judiciary also saw a substantial Filipino participation since the creation of the Supreme Court in 1899.

In 1901, Cayetano Arellano of Orion became the first Filipino Chief Justice. The lower courts had both American and Filipino judges, with the latter increasingly growing in number.

In the legislative branch of government, a 24-member Senate was formed as the Upper House and a House of Representatives as the Lower House Chamber. All of them were elected except for the two senators (from the non-Christian sector) who were appointed by the Governor-General.

In the provincial level, the Aguinaldo’s system of government continued with very minor changes. Provincial officials were elected exclusively by the town officials who usually came from the local elite, the likes of Tomas del Rosario, Pedro Rich, Maximino delos Reyes and others.

Under the American system, only those who can read and write, property owners, and have been government employees during the Spanish period can run for office. In effect, the election law was already limited to the elite.

The only American influence was in the position of the provincial treasurer which was held by an American. American authorities knew that aside from a superior military force, economic control was basic to political control.

Except for the general power of supervision, the municipal government was under Filipino control. It was, in essence, a rapid “Filipinization” of the government starting in 1931 with the passage of the Jones Law.

Captain John Gouldman was appointed by the American governor-general as provincial military governor of Bataan (1901-1903). The succeeding provincial officials continued to be elected by the town presidents and members of the elite society. The municipal and barangay officials were elected directly by their constituents.

Unfortunately, important records concerning Bataan, Orion and the other towns during the American regime up to 1945 were also destroyed as a result of the numerous epic battles in the province during World War II. Provincial records were lost forever after the Capitol building (located at the present Plaza Arcade of Balanga City) burned to the ground in January 1942.

Documents dating back to 1946 up to present time were the only available records being kept by the Sangguniang Bayan of Orion and the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Bataan.
The population of Orion is predominantly Roman Catholic, comprising almost 90 percent of the total citizenry. It can be said that the Dominicans who labored in propagating Christianity in Orion were indeed successful in their untiring efforts to propagate Christianity in the municipality because the people embraced the Catholic religion whole-heartedly.

The present St. Michael The Archangel Parish, built in 1680, is the center of all religious activities of the Roman Catholics in Orion. It is located in Barangay San Vicente, beside the Orion municipal building.

The church had its humble beginning. The first church established in Orion was only made of wood with nipa roofing. It was built along the Sto. Domingo River, near the so-called Tutuban area. After the death of the first missionary or parish priest of Orion named Fr. Domingo Perez, a new church was built in its present site in San Vicente. The church expanded through the years and had undergone several major and minor repairs and rehabilitation.

In addition to the town proper barangays, the remaining peripheral and upland barangays of Orion have their respective chapels and patron saints. Even the farthest barangay, Gen. Lim, has its own religious center for Roman Catholics.

The Church of Latter Day Saints has a beautiful place of worship in St. Michael Subdivision, Balagtas while the protestants have theirs in the Methodist Church in Wakas.

The Kingdom Hall of the Jehovah’s Witnesses in Barangay Daan Pare, though small, is a welcome addition to the community.
ISIDRO, VIRGILIO B.

VIRGILIO BALMACEDA ISIDRO (1950- ) is the current Vice Mayor of Orion. His term started in June 2004.

Vice Mayor Isidro is a native of Bantan, Orion. He was born on January 4, 1950 to parents Marcial Reyes Isidro and Adela Solomon Balmaceda.

He is an alumnus of Pilar Elementary School and Arellano Memorial High School now, Bataan National High School. He finished his Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration, major in Banking and Finance from the Mapua Institute of Technology in 1973.

His initial employment was with Monark International based in Quezon City. After three years, he returned to Orion and established the Funeraria Yambao. Inspite of being a politician he remained a farmer.

His first attempt at politics was in 1998 when he was elected as Municipal Councilor. He improved on his showing in the 2001 local elections when he was elected as one of the top councilors. It was his unblemished record which encouraged Mayor Antonio L. Raymundo Jr. to pick him out as runningmate in the 2004 elections. Both of them won.

Vice Mayor Isidro currently holds office at the Sangguniang Bayan located in Arellano. He presides over the affairs of the legislative department of the local government unit of Orion.

JOCO, Arsenio

ARSENIO JOCO was the 16th mayor of Orion. He was elected to the post in 1941. He continued serving the town during the entire Japanese Occupation.

Born in Wakas, Mayor Joco was a virtual newcomer in politics when he ran for the mayoralty position during the November 1940 local elections. His candidacy was ably supported by his family, specifically his son Joel who was then the Municipal Judge of Orion and Limay. As expected, he won over the incumbent mayor, Agapito Rivera. His reign, however, was interrupted by the advent of World War II. But unlike the other local officials who refused to serve during the Japanese Occupation, Joco and his family returned to Orion immediately after the fall of Bataan and continued performing his duties as an elected mayor.

In 1945, Joco was automatically replaced by the newly-appointed governor, Teodoro Camacho Sr. His replacement was Emiliano Navarro, a noted lawyer and law professor.

In 1947, Joco ran again for mayor against Agustin Angeles, an influential political leader in Orion who replaced Mayor Emiliano Navarro in 1946. Joco lost at the polls.
JOCE, Rizalina G.

RIZALINA GATDULA JOCO is one of the brains behind the establishment of the Bataan Community College, which is part of the Bataan Polytechnic State College. A native of Orion, she also served as principal of the Arellano Memorial Bataan High School (AMBHS, now Bataan National High School) from 1970 to 1979.

Mrs. Joco, wife of former Municipal Judge and Bataan Board Member Joel Joco, started as an ordinary high school teacher at AMBHS in 1960. She was appointed Principal of the said school in 1970 after former Principal Liberato Lactaotao was named Secondary School Principal in charge of supervising all high schools in Bataan. It was during her stint that she thought of putting up a community college in Balanga and immediately brought up the idea to the attention of then Governor Efren B. Pascual. The governor approved the plan provided that the proposed project would be a self-supporting community college. In 1971, the provincial government appropriated an initial P20,000 to start up the program. Mrs. Joco became the officer-in-charge of BCC upon its opening.

Mrs. Joco currently resides in the United States with her children.

Jose Rizal Institute

JOSE RIZAL INSTITUTE (JRI) has the distinction of being the first private school to provide quality secondary education to the children of Orion. It opened in June 1926 to first year high school students and had its first graduation rites in 1936. JRI-Orion continues to serve the educational needs of the children of Orion and the neighboring towns.

It was Atty. Francisco dela Rosa of Arellano, together with Florentino Simeon Sr. and Alfredo Angeles, who founded JRI-Orion. They pooled their resources together to put up the initial school which was located and operated inside the convent of the St. Michael The Archangel Parish.

It was only in 1955 that the school was relocated to its present site in San Vicente to accommodate the increasing number of the student population.
KAPITAN MUNICIPAL

Alfredo V. Angeles (1901-1992) was born in Orion on May 25, 1901. He finished his primary and secondary education from the Orion Elementary School and Bataan High School in Orani, respectively. He had to walk from Orion to Orani and worked at the Orani convent to finish high school. He finished his Commerce degree from the Jose Rizal College, Manila and then taught at the Arellano Memorial (Bataan) High School. Together with Atty. Francisco dela Rosa and Florentino Simeon, they put up JRI-Orión in 1926. It was followed by JRI-Orion in 1939. In 1968, JRI-Orion opened the St. Michael Kindergarten and Elementary School inside the same campus.

For the School Year 2006-2007, JRI registered a total enrollment of 64 kindergarten students; 400 elementary pupils and 1292 high school students.

Benjamin S. Gomez is JRI’s current president while Josefa A. Simeon is the school principal.

With the success of the JRI-Orion, the incorporators also thought of establishing an annex in Orani, especially after the Bataan High School in the said town closed. They gathered more incorporators and the plan was realized in 1939.

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Kapitan Municipal

KAPITAN MUNICIPAL was the title given to the town chief or mayor starting in 1796. Some historians, however, claimed the said title was only used in 1887 to replace the gobernadorcillo, the old title used since 1778. A kapitan municipal was elected by acclamation during a Gran Tribunal. Those who elected the municipal mayor were the incumbent cabezas de barangay and some individuals of high status in the society in the area.

In addition to the kapitan municipal, also elected were the teniente mayor (vice mayor), teniente and cordillera (councilors).

A list of individuals who served as kapitanes municipal of Orion during the Spanish era includes: Damian Baluyut, Maximino Salaveria, Pedro Baluyut, Ceferino Baltazar, Procopio Rivera, Francisco Antonio and Vicente Rodriguez. The dates of their tenure, however, were not made available for this book.

The title kapitan municipal was replaced in 1901 by Presidente Actual or Current President. Vicente Rodriguez, the last kapitan municipal of Orion also became the first Presidente Actual of Orion.

A new title, Mayor, replaced Presidente Actual in 1934. It was first used by Valeriano Soriano, the 14th mayor of Orion.
LATI is one of the original town proper barangays of Orion. It was recognized as a regular barangay on July 24, 1961. It has a land area of 5.47 hectares, the fourth smallest community. As per 2006 Census, it has a population of 1,306.

The barangay is bounded on the north by the San Vicente River (Arellano and Bagumbayan), on the south by Villa Angeles and Wakas, on the east by Daan Bago and Lusungan, and on the west by Wakas.

Lati expanded after the conversion of the fishpond into residential areas. The said fishponds were sold by its owners and developed into a subdivision by Orani businesswomen Letty Galicia and Pagasa Pascual.

It is a favorite destination among the people on the eve of Easter because of the “subok”. People converge where Manrique and Alarcon Streets meet and listen to the angelic voices of young boys and girls vying for the honors to remove the black veil Mater Dokorosa, (the mourning Virgin Mary) on Easter morning. People again flock to the place to witness the chosen angel sing and perform the task.

Angels leading the “Salubong in Lati”
FORTUNATO DE LEON

Fortunato de Leon
served as chairman of the board of directors of the Philippine National Bank and Provident Bank after his stint in Malacañang. He was listed in the 1975 Yearbook and the Statesman’s “Who’s Who.” He was also regarded as an authority in Constitutional Law. He became the Governor of the Philippine Constitutional Association (Philconsa) from 1970 to 1971.

LEON, Fortunato de

FORTUNATO DE LEON fondly called “Batato” was the eighth congressman of Bataan. He served from 1931 to 1934. He was a public administrator, newspaperman and a Bar topnotcher.

De Leon was born in Arellano, Orion in 1905. He graduated as valedictorian of Class ’23 of the Bataan High School. He took up Law at the University of the Philippines (UP). He became a staff member of the Manila Daily Bulletin from 1924 to 1929 while still in school. He served as the editor-in-chief of the Philippine Collegian, the campus paper of UP. As a student, he was an acclaimed orator and debater of the UP College of Law. He topped the Bar examinations in 1929.

With his credentials, he easily won the Bataan congressional race in 1931 against incumbent Congressman Teodoro Camacho Sr. of Balanga. At age 26, he was the youngest member of the Philippine Legislature. As Representative, he co-authored the first Tenancy Law. He was a ranking Minority member of the Commission on Appropriations, Labor and Franchises.

After an unsuccessful rematch with Teodoro Camacho Sr., De Leon put up a Law office in Manila and went into private practice of his profession. He also continued writing for Bulletin and other national newspapers.

In 1956, President Ramon Magsaysay named De Leon as Executive Secretary. He retained the post for another year after the sudden death of the president in a plane crash.

LIM, Jose Q.

JOSE QUICHO LIM (1949- ) was the 25th mayor of Orion. He served from October 1, 1987 to January 1988.

Boy Lim, as he is more popularly known, was born on March 18, 1949. His parents were Salvador Lim of Hermosa and Carmen Quicho of Daan Bago, Orion. He completed his elementary and secondary education in Orion Elementary School and Jose Rizal Institute. He enrolled at the Mapua Institute of Technology but failed to finish an engineering course in exchange for the opportunity to be a seaman. Upon his return, he established a construction company and at the same time managed the family-owned Orion Ricemill.

Mayor Lim, a noted businessman and sportsman, had the chance to administer the affairs of Orion when he was appointed by Governor Leonardo B. Roman as acting municipal mayor in October 1987.

Lim is married to the former Generosa Guzman, a Certified Public Accountant from Bagumbayan with whom he has 3 children. The eldest child Kenneth is now a full-pledge doctor.
LIMAY was a former distant barangay of Orion. It was the last town in Bataan to be recognized by the Spanish government as a regular pueblo on July 4, 1877. The proclamation, however, was later revoked and it took an American governor-general in the Philippines, Francis Burton Harrison, to formalize the creation of Limay as a municipality (pueblo).

Limay was formally recognized as a regular town on January 1, 1917 by virtue of Harrison’s Executive Order No. 93. It was made possible through the recommendations of Congressman Maximino delos Reyes (1916-1922) and Bataan Governor Conrado Lerma (1916-1918).

The town covers an area of 10,362 hectares, about 65 percent of which is forest land while the rest is used for agricultural and residential purposes. Limay has a population of 46,520 as of 2000.

For many years, Limay was a stagnant and underdeveloped place. Today, Limay is a first class municipality due to the big establishments that were put up since the 1950s. These industries include the Petron Bataan Refinery (formerly ESSO and Stanvac), Planters Products, Columbian Carbon Philippines, Philippine Explosives, National Power Corporation Thermal Plant, the Government Arsenal, Asea Brown Boveri, Limay Bulk Handling Terminal and the Limay Grinding Mills.

The Petron Refinery sits on a 243-hectare land in Barangay Alangan. Initially worth $45 million, it was the biggest private investment in the country up to this time. The plant was designed to produce 25,000 to 50,000 barrels of oil a day. After more than 40 years of operation, the refinery continues to produce regular and premium gasoline, jet fuel, kerosene, automotive and industrial diesel oil, industrial and bunker fuel oil, bunker oil and asphalt.

The DND Arsenal, on the other hand, was built as per Republic Act. 1884 signed by former President Carlos P. Garcia on June 22, 1957. The Arsenal owns 600 hectares in Lamao (formerly the Lamao Agricultural Experimental Station). It started operation in 1972. Known as Camp Gen. Antonio Luna, the Arsenal has a powder case plant, bullet plant, cartridge loading and packing plant.

Former local officials of Limay, particularly Mayor Floro Roxas, started pushing for the elevation of Limay into a component city since the early 1970s. The move remained unfulfilled up to the present.
Orion local government unit is composed of three major departments: Executive, Legislative and Judiciary. These departments have separate functions but co-equal at some level.

The Mayor is at the top of the structure as the local chief executive. He directs, controls, supervises and manages all the activities of the municipal government. All department heads are appointed by the Mayor except the municipal treasurer who is appointed by the Department of Finance. These department heads and their subordinates are mandated to perform specialized tasks, such as planning, human resource management, fiscal administration and delivering basic services to the constituents of the municipality.

The Legislative Department, on the other hand, refers to the Vice Mayor and the Office of the Sangguniang Bayan. The Vice Mayor and the municipal councilors enact ordinances, approved resolutions and appropriate funds for the general welfare of the municipality and its constituents. The Office of the Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan provides technical and administrative assistance to the municipal council.
LUSUNGAN is one of coastal barangays of Orion. It is bounded on the north by Daan Bago, on the south by Villa Angeles and Capunitan, on the east by Manila Bay and on the west by Lati. It is accessible via the Panganiban and Gabriel Manrique Streets which are both connected to the Bataan National Road.

The barangay has a land area of 2.80 hectares, the smallest among the 23 barangays in Orion. Lusungan is purely residential and inhabited by 1,368 people based on 2006 Census.

Lusungan has many versions as to how it came to be. One version was that during the early days, the eastern part of Lusungan belonged to Manila Bay. It was famous for its sandy beaches and lush mangroves. The natives, mostly fishermen, were known to be the first to use the bayanihan method of fishing. It was the period when they were still using dayakos or pakulong in catching fish, shrimp and crabs that thrived along the barangay’s shoreline. Lusungan is synonymous to bayanihan.

Another version was that it was in Lusungan where early barangay folks saw a huge and aging crocodile wading back to the sea after hibernating for some time in the area.

It was former Mayor Manuel R. Santos who initiated the establishment of Lusungan as a regular barangay. The Sangguniang Panlalawigan approved its creation as a barangay on February 15, 1962.

Lusungan has a barangay hall, day care center and a barangay health center. Children go to Capunitan Elementary School for their elementary education. The Bataan School of Fisheries is located nearby.
MANILA BAY is an inlet of the South China Sea. It measures 220,000 hectares, more or less, and is bounded by the provinces of Bataan, Pampanga, Bulacan, Cavite and Metro Manila.

The bay is basically sand and mud, about 45 nautical miles wide and 60 miles long. Its depth averages from 5 to 20 fathoms based on the 1973 records provided by the Philippine Coast and Geodetic Survey. Some 100 rivers, including the Pasig, Pampanga Rivers and San Vicente River, run into it. Manila North and South Harbors, and Sangley Point in Cavite are the three most important ports on the bay.

Port Capinpin in Orion uses Manila Bay for its ferry service. The sea route is approximately 45-50 nautical miles, and about 45 minutes of travel from Manila to Puting Buhangin.

Manila Bay provides livelihood to some 2,000,000 fishermen living along its long coastline. Commercial fishing takes place off the southern portion of the bay, near the Corregidor Island but some unscrupulous trawlers drop their nets on their way to the area. In quantity, the most important catch is halubaybay, while in terms of value; lapu-lapu is the most expensive.

The northern portion of the bay, from Navotas (Manila) to Samal (Bataan) is teeming with fishpond lots where mud crab (alimango), prawns, milkfish and tilapia are grown. Mussel, oyster and clam cultures are also in abundance in the Bataan side of the bay, as well as in Cavite.
DIOSCORO LLAMZON MANRIQUE (1923-1988) was the first commissioner of the Foreign Trade Zone Authority (FTZA) who also served as the pioneering zone manager of the Bataan Export Processing Zone (BEPZ, now Bataan Economic Zone) in Mariveles, Bataan.

Dioscoro was born in Hagonoy, Bulacan, on May 18, 1923. His parents were Lazaro Manrique of Abucay and Victoria Llamzon of Orion. Dioscoro worked his way to complete his secondary and college education. He was gainfully employed as a janitor while finishing high school education at the Jose Rizal Institute-Orion. He also worked odd jobs while completing his Law degree at the Manuel L. Quezon University in Manila.

Atty. Manrique joined the newly-organized Free Trade Zone Authority in 1971 or immediately after the law creating the Bataan Export Processing Zone was signed by then President Ferdinand Marcos. As a commissioner, he initially held office at the Manila Port Area until 1979.

After the completion of the new BEPZ administration building, he transferred to Mariveles and started serving as its first zone manager. During his term, several companies opened their plants at BEPZ. The list include Famicusa (garments), Ang Tibay Shoes, AMCO (garments), Ford Stamping Plant, Ricoh Watch, Cresta Monte (lumber yard) and others. He served as zone manager until 1984.

Atty. Manrique ran for a board member position in Bataan but it was an unsuccessful bid. He died on August 2, 1988.

Manrique was married to Clarita Pangilinan of Bulacan, a head nurse in Malacanang during the Marcos administration. The Manrique couple had 2 children: Eduardo, a doctor and Alfredo.

GABRIEL LLAMZON MANRIQUE (1931-1986) was the 20th mayor of Orion. His continuous administration of 19 years is considered as the longest in the political history of the municipality. He was one of the most charismatic and innovative leaders in Bataan during his time.

Mayor Manrique was born in Daan Bago, Orion on March 18, 1931. His parents were Lazaro Manrique of Mabatang, Abucay and Victoria Llamzon of Bilolo, Orion. He was one of the most intellectual and outstanding alumni of Orion Elementary School and Arellano Memorial (Bataan) High School. His brilliance became more evident in college. He finished his Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration at the Mapua Institute of Technology as a gold medalist.

It was during the November 1967 local elections when Manrique formally showed his genuine ability in politics. Using his natural flair in public speaking, he gathered additional supporters each time he spoke on stage while campaigning for mayor against incumbent Mayor Ricardo T. Angeles.
Gabriel L. Manrique was married to Remedios Garcia-Manrique who died on July 25, 1968. The couple had a son, Gabriel Jr., who is presently based in the United States.

Mayor Manrique gathered more votes than Angeles.

It was Vice Mayor Ernesto Pascual, an ally of Angeles, who ran against Manrique in 1971 but his bid was unsuccessful. Manrique won by a landslide over Pascual. There was no election held in 1976 and Manrique, a Kilusang Bagong Lipunan party member, served until 1980 uninterrupted.

Angeles ran for mayor against Manrique in 1980 but the latter won easily at the polls.

In a span of 19 years, Manrique was able to implement numerous major projects in Orion: the widening and concreting of the Orion National Road; concreting of barangay roads and pathways; construction of bridges (Tulay Bato, Tulay Gitna, Tulay Baraka); reclamation and creation of Sitio Pag-asas (in Wawa); construction of fish port, slaughterhouse, housing projects and elementary school in Pag-asas; establishment of the Orion Emergency Hospital now the Legislative Building; creation of Sabatan and Villa Angeles as new barangays; establishment of the Orion Municipal High School in Capunitan; building of new classrooms for various barangay schools; and the opening of the Port of Orion in Puting Buhangin which was initially used for hydrofoil service.

In March 1981, Mayor Manrique won the Presidential Regional Officers Development (PROD) award.

He was relieved from his position in March 1986 after the EDSA Revolution and was replaced by Alfredo Pangilinan of San Vicente.

Mayor Manrique died of liver cirrhosis on September 5, 1986.
Dr. ANTONIO HIZON MARIANO (1938-1999) was Orion’s 27th mayor. He served from 1992-1995. He was also the town’s vice-mayor from 1972-1976, 1976-1980 and 1980-1986, all during the incumbency of former Mayor Gabriel L. Manrique.

Dr. Mariano was the son of Dr. Ruperto Mariano and Francisca Hizon. He was born in Orion on August 16, 1938. He finished his elementary and secondary education in Orion Elementary School and Jose Rizal Institute. He finished his Pre-Med course at the University of Santo Tomas and enrolled at the Far Eastern University for further medical studies. He shifted to Dentistry and finished his course in 1961.

Instead of putting up a dental clinic, he and his wife Eugenia Evangelista decided on having a hardware store in Barangay Arellano. The venture was a success. Ten years later, Dr. Mariano teamed up with incumbent Mayor Gabriel Manrique and both of them won during the 1971 local elections. He defeated Ambrocio Almazan for the vice mayoralty post. He and Manrique remained in office from 1976 to 1980 in the absence of an election due to the declaration of Martial Law by President Marcos on September 21, 1972. During this period, Mariano served as a town councilor after the position of vice mayor was abolished. He also served as Board Member after Mayor Manrique appointed him as municipal representative to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Bataan.

In 1980, he ran again for the vice-mayoralty position together with Mayor Manrique. Despite the controversies of the Marcos dictatorship, the KBL ticket in Orion led by Mayor Manrique and Dr. Mariano won at the polls.

Six years later, however, all incumbent local officials were replaced by new appointees as a result of the EDSA Revolution.

After the demise of Mayor Manrique in September 1986, Dr. Mariano ran for mayor during the 1988 polls against erstwhile OIC-Mayor Alfredo Pangilinan and newcomer Manuel Santos Jr. Surprisingly, Santos won and served until 1992. Mariano, Pangilinan and Santos once more challenged each other in 1992. Mariano and his runningmate, Erlinda Guzman won.

Under the Mariano administration the transfer of the public market from its old location to its present site was completed. Likewise, it was under his leadership that the Orion Water District was established. What made the Mariano administration notable was the implementation of RA 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991. It was under his term that the code was fully implemented.

The Mariano-Santos political rivalry continued until the 1995 elections. In the end, Santos emerged as the poll winner. It was Mariano’s runningmate, Teodoro Catalan, who won as vice mayor.

He passed away on May 4, 1999.
MARIANO, Eugenia E.

EUGENIA EVANGELISTA MARIANO (1937- ) is currently a municipal councilor of Orion who served as vice mayor from 1998 to 2001. She was married to the late Dr. Antonio H. Mariano, the town mayor from 1992-1995.

Mrs. Mariano is the daughter of the late Diomedes Evangelista and Narcisa Angeles of Bagumbayan, Orion. She was born on August 10, 1937. She was a product of Orion Elementary School and Jose Rizal Institute-Orion. She completed her Associate in Arts degree in 1957 from the University of Santo Tomas. She also finished a Bachelor’s degree in Foreign Service in 1960 from the University of Manila. She chose to become a businesswoman-housewife when she married Dr. Antonio in 1961. The Mariano couple had four children: Rupert (dentist), Normandy, Michaela (dentist) and Rommel (dentist).

She supported the candidacy of her husband who entered the political scene and became Orion’s vice mayor from 1972-1976, 1976-1980, and 1980-1986.

She joined the political scene in 1988. She became the runningmate of her husband’s political rival, Manuel Santos Jr. Just like Santos, she won as vice mayor against candidate Allaninton. After her term in 2001, she was appointed as confidential secretary of Mayor Antonio L. Raymundo Jr.

MARIANO, Ruperto

Dr. RUPERTO MARIANO (1902-1972) was Orion’s representative to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Bataan from 1962 to 1967. He was the father of Dr. Antonio H. Mariano, Orion’s mayor from 1992 to 1995.

Dr. Mariano was a native of Bagumbayan, Orion. He completed his degree in Medicine from the University of Santo Tomas. Aside from his profession, Dr. Mariano derived additional income from operating several fishing boats, fishponds and farm lands in Orion.

With his stature in society it was no surprise when he was personally appointed by Governor Pedro R. Dizon to replace Bataan Board Member Toribio Sison of Hermosa who resigned from his position on December 7, 1962. In less than a year, he was persuaded by re-electionist Gov. Dizon to run for the same elective position during the November 1963 polls. He accepted the challenge and was elected together with two other board members – Benjamin Pascual of Orani and Rufino Navarro of Samal.

The succeeding election (1967) was not as successful as the first for Dr. Mariano. The Guillermo Arcenas-led team beat the Dizon ticket. Only Atty. Rufino Navarro won. Mariano went back to private life and practice of his profession.
MARIANO, Sergio J.


Board Member Mariano was born in Wakas, Orion on February 9, 1937. His parents were Rufino Mariano and Francisca Jimenez, both natives of Orion. He finished his secondary education at the Jose Rizal Institute-Orion. He, however, failed to complete an engineering course at the Far Eastern University where he enrolled after high school.

At age 55, Mariano ran for a councilor seat in 1992. He won in his first attempt. He was re-elected in 1995. It was during his second term that he was also elected as president of the Provincial Councilors’ League (PCL) over Atty. Tomas Dilig of Bagac. He represented the PCL in the Sangguniang Panlalawigan as an ex-officio member. He was the third councilor to become a board member. He continued performing his duties as board member after getting re-elected as Orion councilor in 1998.

Mariano ran a successful campaign for a regular board member seat in 2001. One of his major accomplishments was the establishment of the Orion National High School in Barangay Balagtas which officially opened in June 2002.

Unfortunately, Mariano failed in his bid for re-election in 2004.

Sergio J. Mariano was married to the late Carmen Gomez of Manila. The couple has two children: Sergio Jr., and Michael. The family currently resides in Villa Angeles.

Missionaries

The Dominican Friar-Preachers set foot in Bataan in 1587. Father Christopher Salvatierra of the Dominican Order, came to Bataan to minister the teachings of the Catholic Church among the natives he found in the province. A year later, other friars joined hands with Fr. Salvatierra in establishing the first pueblo in Bataan, which was Abucay.

The Augustinians, Franciscans and the Jesuits also had the opportunity to work in Bataan but their stay had always been temporary. The Franciscans founded Morong in 1607, the same year the Recollects came to Mariveles. It was a Franciscan friar – Sebastian de Baeza – who encouraged more natives to embrace christianity.

The Jesuits were also reported to have established a mission center in Mariveles in 1582, six years before Abucay became a town. Fr. Domingo de Salazar, a Jesuit, was one of those who did mission work in Mariveles.

The Augustinians were also believed to have conducted mission work in Dinalupihan, Bataan from their convents in Betis and Lubao, Pampanga. These missionaries eventually abandoned Bataan.

The Dominican Order played a major role in the development and cultivation of faith among the people of Bataan.
The Mariveles Mountain and the Mount Natib complex are the two major mountain ranges in Bataan. These mountains cover an area of 111,072 hectares, equivalent to 80.9 percent of the total land area of the province.

Mount Natib stretches from Dinalupihan-Hermosa area down to Balanga. The Mariveles Mountain starts from Pilar and ends in Mariveles. Mount Natib and Mariveles are of volcanic origin with the exception of Mount Pinatubo Peak.

Mount Natib complex is composed of Mount Santa Rosa (800 feet above sea level); and Mount Santa Rita (485 feet); on the north, Mount Natib on the east (1,253 feet); Bataan Peak on the south (1,000 feet); and Mount Silangan on the west (910 feet).

Mount Malasimbu (400 m), also known as the “little Mount Mayon” of Bataan lies inside the Zambales boundary and is not a part of Bataan. It is more popularly known as “Susong Dalaga.”

The southern peak includes Mariveles Mountain (1,388 feet); Mount Limay or Cayapo (946 feet); Pantingan Peak (536 feet); Orion Peak (465 feet); and Mount Alas-asin (406 feet).

The famous Mount Samat in Diwa, Pilar is part of the Mariveles Mountain. It towers up to 553 feet above sea level. The fiercest battles during World War II occurred here in 1942. The Shrine of Valor (Dambana ng Kagitingan) was constructed atop the said mountain in 1969 to commemorate the gallantry of the Filipino and American soldiers against the advancing Japanese Imperial Army.

Both mountain ranges are in dire need of reforestation programs. The last century was marked by irresponsible destruction of the forests through illegal logging.
Municipio

The MUNICIPIO of Orion is a two-storey building located in Barangay San Vicente, beside the St. Michael The Archangel Church. The said lot has become the site of the town’s presidencia since 1894.

The municipal building is the place where the mayor, his staff, line agencies and their employees hold office. It is also the home of about 150 municipal employees and staff members of other government agencies.

The old presidencia was rehabilitated in 1903 by the first elected mayor of Orion, Luis Baltazar. The said building was demolished in 1954 to give way to a new two-storey, semi-concrete building. Manila-based businessman, Gabriel Pascual, of Lati and owner of the Manila Diesel Parts and Supply, donated P15,000 for the construction of the new municipal building. The project was completed and inaugurated that same year, during the administration of Mayor Manuel R. Santos (1951-1955).

Former Mayor Manuel C. Santos Jr., son of Mayor Santos Sr. who built the municipal building in 1954, spearheaded the reconstruction of the municipio in 1989 through the support of former DENR Secretary Fulgencio Factoran and Governor Leonardo B. Roman.

The reconstruction project remained unfinished up to the present time. Current Mayor Antonio L. Raymundo Jr. is exploring all possible means to raise the much-needed fund for its completion.

Music

Filipinos are born musicians for they can easily learn tunes by ear. It was the reason why Spanish colonizers encountered no difficulty in teaching Spanish and other foreign music to the natives. They taught children religious songs which were used mostly in church activities.

The Filipinos’ love for music continued from the pre-Spanish period up to the present time. Orion, had a long list of musicians and composers. Gregorio San Jose of Daan Bago is best remembered for composing Veteranos dela Revolucion, an overture conceived at the height of the Philippine Revolution against the Spaniards. A European overture entitled “1812” (War of 1812) served as San Jose’s inspiration in composing his own overture which was also about war and peace. The musical piece was played many times by ragtag bands from 1898 to celebrate the liberation of the people of Bataan from the Spaniards.

Salvador Gomez Lonzon (1902-1998) was another well-known musician from Orion. He played beautiful music with the saxophone and the flute. He founded the first marching band of Orion in 1935. It was a 40-member band composed mostly of local residents who were taught how to play musical instruments by Lonzon. Despite its popularity, the band was dissolved during the Japanese Occupation. After the Liberation, Gonzalo “Galo” Carlos, together with Rustico Baluyot, revived the group and renamed it Soriano Band. It was….
…one of the most popular bands in Bataan until it disbanded in the early 1970s.

Baluyot, for his love of music, organized another brass band in 1985. The Baluyot Band was dissolved 10 years later.

Bebeng Tiambeng also made a name for himself as a musician and band leader. In the 1950s, he founded an orchestra named Beng Rodriguez and His Band which played in Hongkong nightclub and restaurants for many years.

The Angelicus Choir of St. Michael The Archangel Church also became the pride of the town soon after it was organized in 1983 by Magdalena Lazaro, with Felicita Esguerra as the choir Director and Tessie Simeon as the Pianist. The group brought honors to Orion after bagging three Provincial Parish Choral Pasiklaban championship trophies in 1990, 1994 and 1995.

Orion also produced several individuals who excelled in music. Bernardo Roxas of Bagumbayan and Noel Samonte of Lati became Tawag ng Tanghalan champions.

The town likewise produced some noted sopranos like Petra Carlos and her daughters Demetria, Nellie and Toribia and Dolores Lonzon Brown, the daughter of Salvador Lonzon.

**NAVARRO, Emiliano R.**

EMILIANO RODRIGUEZ NAVARRO (1917-1961) of Camachile was the 17th mayor of Orion. He was appointed to the position by acting Bataan Governor Teodoro Camacho Sr. and served from August 1945 to June 1946.

Atty. Navarro completed his Law degree from the University of the Philippines (UP), *cum laude*, and passed the Bar in 1940. He was appointed as provincial secretary from 1942 to 1943. After Liberation, he replaced Arsenio Joco as mayor of Orion. He distributed relief goods to the residents in town. He also rehabilitated the municipal building and repaired Tulay Gitna and Tulay Baraka.

He was relieved from his post by Governor Joaquin J. Linao. He was replaced by Agustin I. Angeles in July 1946. Instead of running against Angeles in the 1947 polls, he opened a law office in Manila and taught at the UP College of Law, Philippine Law School, and Arellano University. In 1949, he went to the United States and finished his Master’s degree from the University of Michigan. He wrote books on Criminal Procedure, Lead Philosophy, Corporations Criminal Law, and Persons and Family Relations. He and wife Luz Salaverria-Navarro developed the Mel-Luz Subdivision in Barangay Balagtas.

In 1961, Atty. Navarro ran as an independent candidate against Congressman Jose R. Nuguid and former Press Secretary J.V. Cruz. He died after being sideswept by a Café Puro van while campaigning in Colo, Dinalupihan in the morning of November 1, 1961.
ORION is one of the 11 municipalities in the province of Bataan. Originally a barangay (visita) of Abucay, it was established as a vicariate on April 30, 1667. It was recognized as a regular town a week later. It was the fourth municipality in the province to be recognized as a regular town.

The town is located in the southeastern part of Bataan. It is bounded on the north by Pilar, on the south by Limay, on the east by Manila Bay, and on the west by Bagac. It has total land area of 6,541 hectares or about 65.41 square kilometers.

Orion is approximately 132 kilometers away from Manila by land and around 45-50 nautical miles across Manila Bay. It is about 8 kilometers south of Balanga City, and about 20 kilometers north of Mariveles, the southernmost town in Bataan.

Orion has been classified as a third class municipality effective July 29, 2005. Its annual income in 2005 was registered at P44 million.

In 1669, Orion expanded by extending its land area from Calungusan up to Pandam (now Daan Pare). As of October 1961, Orion has only 11 barangays. To date, the town is composed of 23 barangays which are classified into two groups:

*Town proper barangays* — Arellano, Bagumbayan, Balagtas, Balut, Daan Bago, Daan Bilolo, Lati, Lusungan, San Vicente, Villa Angeles, Wakas, Wawa; and *Rural barangays* — Bantan, Bilolo, Calungusan, Camachile, Daan Pare, General Lim, Kapunitan, Puting Buhangin, Sabatan, Santa Elena and Sto. Domingo.

General Lim is the biggest barangay in terms of land area (2,734 hectares), while Lusungan is the smallest with an area of only 2.80 hectares.

The topography of Orion is generally mountainous 30 percent of which is plain. The mountainous part is located on the western part where Mariveles Mountain is situated. The town is an agricultural community. About 5,191 hectares of the total land area is used for agricultural purposes.
The Seal of Orion is the official symbol of the municipality. It is often used on official documents to guarantee its authenticity. The official Seal’s central design is divided into two halves, representing the two major industries in Orion. On the left is a simple depiction of farmland, which represents the agriculture industry of the town. On the right is an image of a boat in the middle of a sea (a replica of Manila Bay), symbolizing the fishing industry; in the background is a mountain range which represents the mountainous western part of the municipality. Dividing the two halves is a sword with scales, a representation of Don Cayetano Arellano, Orion’s most famous son who became the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

The Official Seal of Orion was adopted and first used in 1948.

FACTS: An old Dominican document dated 1563 stated that the word Orion meant “southern tip.” It was named as such because the place lies at the southern tip of the Isle Pandilo de Bataan. Initially, the town was named as San Miguel Arcangel de Oriong.

Udyong: A check with existing official records found in St. Michael The Archangel Parish showed that in 1804, the town was already known as Orion, not Oringg or Udyong.

Orion is basically an agricultural town.

Timber and forest land area comprised 16.44 percent (860 hectares) of the total. Residential land area is 3.04 percent while commercial and institutional land area has .23 percent and .19 percent, respectively.

There are five major river tributaries in the municipality. These are the Calungusan River, Sto. Domingo River, San Vicente River, Lucong River and Pandam River. All these rivers and smaller creeks (Baña and Tabon Creeks) drain into Manila Bay. The water provided by these tributaries is utilized for the purposes of irrigating vast stretches of rice fields and farm lands through the construction of water impounding structures.

Underground water is abundant in town. It serves as the prevailing sources of domestic water and potable drinking water. These water resources can be tapped through a communal water system. The Orion Water District (ORIWAD) provides potable water to about 19 barangays. Households that are not reached by the water system like Bantan, Calungusan, General Lim and Santa Elena, get their supply of potable water from free-flows and artesian pumps.

In addition to agriculture, residents are also involved in aquaculture. Fishponds for brackish water culture occupy a great deal of land area in the municipality. Totalling some 172.6 hectares, these fishponds are located mostly within Barangays Bantan, Camachile and Capunitan. There are 30 brackish water fishpond operators in Orion as of 2003. Fresh water fishpond operators were registered at eight.

The length of Orion’s shoreline is estimated to be 7,823 hectares. People living in about 11 coastal barangays are engaged in commercial fishing. Fisherfolks, with a total of 909 as of 2003, use 520 motorized boats and 76 non-motorized boats.

Orion’s built-up areas are mostly concentrated around the area of Poblacion proper and along the central coast line. Other concentration of built-up areas can be found along the four major road corridors (Bataan National Road, Roman Expressway, Daan Bilolo Road and the Sto. Domingo Access Road), the fishing grounds in Santa Elena and the port in Puting Buhangin.
Additional residential areas, mostly subdivisions in nature, are already starting to mushroom away from the town core, in the northern barangays of Bantan, Calungusan and Camachile.

About 98% of the Orion households are already energized with PENELCO as the power distributor.

Water supply on the other hand is provided by ORIWAD, San Vicente Waterworks, Lati Waterworks and Bantan Waterworks.

The Philippine Postal Corporation offers postal service facilities in the municipality while Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company and DIGITEL offer both landline and wireless telephone services. Globe Telecoms has established two cellsite towers in Balut and Puting Buhangin while Smart has two towers in Balagtas and Daan Pare. Sun Cellular has one cell site in Balagtas.

**Orion, the Great Hunter**

The name of the municipality was derived from Orion, one of the 88 star groups, or constellations in the sky. Also known as the Great Hunter of the heavens, Orion is one of the most splendid of all the constellations. Its figure is roughly rectangular and easy to find. Orion is in the meridian at about 9 p.m. on February 1, about 11 p.m. on January 1 and 1 p.m. on December 1.

The Orion constellation is composed of a first-magnitude star called Betelgeuse, a gigantic red star hundreds of times larger than our sun in the Solar System. Rigel, a gorgeous blue-white star is at its left foot. Dividing Orion’s rectangle in two are the three stars of the belt, from which hangs the Giant Hunter’s sword. The top star of the belt is called Delta, which lies almost exactly on the celestial equator. M42 - a great gaseous nebula - surrounds the middle star of the sword.

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**Orion legends**

There are different versions as to how Orion got its name.

- **Version One** claims that Udyong was derived from a word which means “mud” (or luad in Tagalog). Purportedly, the town was originally muddy in its early stages of development. By means of continuous filling-up of the low places, the town was finally claimed from its initial muddy condition. The version goes on to state that the Spaniards, unable to pronounce Udyong, called it Uryong, Oryon, and finally, Orion.

- **Version Two** states that Orion was given by the Spaniards allegedly after discovering that the town was lying directly beneath the bright star called Orion. Later on, for facility of pronunciation, the people called it Udyong.

- **Version Three** is somewhat a localized legend. Accordingly, some Spaniards reached the town and approached a crowd of natives who were concerned about something. The Spaniards asked the crowd what they were doing. Believing that the foreigners were asking about the worms on the ground that they were attending to, the natives answered uod ‘yon, meaning “They were worms.” Since then, the Spaniards associated the place with Uod ‘yon or Udyong.
With the establishment of Poblacion as the real center of Orion, a new and bigger church was built in San Vicente.

The group of Spanish missionaries who first set foot in Orion was led by Fr. Christopher Salvatierra. They found the place already inhabited by natives. Based on historical records, they were descendants of the early Muslim seafarers who sailed to Luzon from Mindanao and Visayas to be part of the growing barter trade with Chinese and Japanese merchants.

After proclaiming Calungusan (not Poblacion) as a territory under the control of the Dominican Order, Fr. Salvatierra returned to Manila to prepare the draft creating the Partido de Bataan. In his stead, he tasked one Sergeant Trajano and two other Spanish soldiers to prepare the area as well as the inhabitants for the coming of their new masters.

Immediately, Trajano and the soldiers established rapport with the natives who were living in small clusters but separated by rivers, swamps and marshlands. They convinced the natives to live close to other groups of families in a form of socialized living. To do this, they lured the natives by building a big residence near the Calungusan River where the sick natives were brought and taken cared of by the Spaniards.

Fr. Domingo Perez, upon arrival in Orion in 1665, worked for the recognition of Calungusan as a visita of Abucay. In 1667, Orion was recognized as a regular town. Fr. Perez immediately built the first Catholic chapel along the Sto. Domingo River, near the Tutuban area where the Fred's Mart is presently located. After the death of Fr. Perez, other Spanish missionaries came to Orion and continued the Christianization of the natives.

Trajano, meanwhile, settled in Calungusan where he was given ownership of a vast area of lands south of the barangay. He and his family cultivated the area with the help of other natives who found agriculture as a more profitable economic activity than fishing and bartering.

In 1680, Poblacion was established as the real center of the town. A new church made of bricks was erected in its present site. Trajano immediately transferred his family to the town proper. As his children increased in number, the cultivated area planted by his family also expanded. After the death of his wife, Trajano transferred to Hagonoy, Bulacan and stayed there until his death. It was the Trillana family, Trajano’s appointed administrators, who took charge of his possession in Calungusan and in other barangays.

From 1887 to the present, the town was ruled by a mayor (initially called gobernadorcillo, then kapitan municipal and presidente actual).

In 1919, as a result of the killing of Governor Conrado Lerma by Jose Baluyut of Orion, newly-appointed Governor Pedro Rich placed Orion and Pilar towns under military control. It explains why former Mayor Simeon Rodriguez of Bantan became mayor of Pilar and Orion from 1919-1921.

Pandam River
The river used to be the bathing resort in Orion. It was a romantic area where Orion gents and country lasses swim and take a bath in the cool and clear waters of Pandam. During the Philippine Revolution against the Americans, then Major Manuel L. Quezon also went to the Pandam River to bathe.

Residence of Francisco Baltazar
Located in Barangay Wakas, the old Spanish-designed residence of the famous Balagtasan king and his wife, Juana Tiambeng was destroyed during World War II. Its massive walls and concrete ruins are mute evidences of the size of the building where the father of Tagalog poetry once lived.

Mansion of Don Cayetano Arellano
A marker in Barangay Arellano across St. Michael the Archangel Parish Church marks the spot where the Ancestral house of the famed first Filipino Chief Justice of the Supreme Court once stood. Relatives on his mother side occupied his house after his death until it was totally destroyed.

Statue of Unknown Soldiers
Built in Barangay Wakas in memory of the bloody encounter between the Spanish casadores headed by one Sergeant Guerra and the Filipino revolutionaries led by Victor Baltazar (grandson of Francisco Baltazar). The encounter actually happened in Daan Pare in the afternoon of May 29, 1898. It resulted in the loss of about 22 casadores and guardia civil. It was the first victory of Filipinos against the Spaniards.

Daan Pare
The area was the site of the USAFFE encampment during World War II. Many lives and valuables of soldiers and civilians were lost in the place immediately after the Japanese broke through the Mount Samat defense line. Those who were too weak to retreat towards Limay were captured by the Japanese. A big number of the prisoners-of-war were shot or bayoneted to death. Daan Pare was a hallowed ground.

First Public Market Site
The first public market, located in Barangay Arellano (not the area now occupied by the St. Michael Hospital in Wakas), was once the scene of the bitter fight between the Japanese soldiers and the American liberators in February 1945. The encounter resulted in the considerable loss of lives on both sides. After the incident, General Douglas MacArthur personally visited all the eastern towns in Bataan, including the market site in Orion, from February 5-7, 1945 while waiting for the outcome of the on-going battle at Zigzag Pass (Dinalupihan-Hermosa area).

Orion Catholic Church
The church was the scene of many daring attempts of local revolutionaries to defeat the Spaniards stationed in Orion. During World War II, the church’s spires and tower were used as observation posts by USAFFE soldiers especially during bombing runs by enemy planes. The Japanese also used it as observation posts while assaults in Daan Pare against retreating Filipino-American soldiers were going on.

The Glorietta
Also known as bandstand, Orion’s glorietta was a shining and concrete example of the civic spirit displayed by former Mayor Valeriano Soriano, a native of Orion, who invoked the spirit of lusungan or bayanihan to have the structure completed in 1935.
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<td>Gabriel L. Marquez</td>
<td>Antonio H. Mariano</td>
<td>1968-1970</td>
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<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Gabriel L. Marquez</td>
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<td>1970-1972</td>
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<td>37</td>
<td>Alfredo Pangilinan</td>
<td>Quirino Quicho</td>
<td>1972-1974</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>Jose Q. Lim</td>
<td>Quirino Quicho</td>
<td>1974-1976</td>
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<td>40</td>
<td>Antonio H. Mariano</td>
<td>Erinio Sanroman</td>
<td>1978-1980</td>
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<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Manuel C. Santos Jr.</td>
<td>Eugenia Mariano</td>
<td>1982-1984</td>
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<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>Antonio L. Raymundo Jr.</td>
<td>Virgilio Hidr</td>
<td>2004-present</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* appointed  ** officer-in-charge
Municipal Officials of Orion

Based on available data

Term coverage: 1951-1955
Mayor Manuel R. Santos
Vice Mayor Quirino Quicho
Councilors Avelino Sabino
Primitivo Salaveria
Antero Dizon
Felizardo Bemabe
Pedro Cruz
Celerino Reyes

Term coverage: 1955-1959
Mayor Alberto Cristobal
Vice Mayor Andres Buenaventura
Councilors Jeremias Apolinarino
Felizardo Bemabe
Ramon Flordeliz
Bernardo Pizarro
Avelino Sabino
Isidro Bautista

Term coverage: 1959-1963
Mayor Manuel R. Santos
Vice Mayor Jose B. Quicho
Pedro Quicho
Celerino Reyes
Sinforsos Evangelista
Pedro B. Cruz
Bienvenido Navaro
Felizardo Bemabe

Term coverage: 1963-1967
Mayor Ricardo T. Angeles
Vice Mayor Felizardo Bemabe
Roberto Menardo
Pedro Venegas
Alberto Almazan
Isidro Bautista
Avelino Sabino
Sinforsos Evangelista
Jeremias Apolinarino
Leonardo Bantog

Term coverage: 1967-1971
Mayor Gabriel L. Manrique
Vice Mayor Emesto Pascual
Jeremias Apolinarino
Avelino J. Sabino
Ramon Floredeliz
Pedro Santos
Rafael Reyes
Francisco Mariano
Sinforsos Evangelista
Alfred T. Seeckts

Term coverage: 1972-1975
Mayor Gabriel L. Manrique
Vice Mayor Dr. Antonio H. Mariano
Councilors Avelino J. Sabino
Rafael M. Reyes
Sinforsos Evangelista
Pedro R. Santos
Jeremias Apolinarino
Ramon F. Flordeliz
Teodoro T. Catalan
Alfred T. Seeckts

Term coverage: 1976-1980
Mayor Gabriel L. Manrique
Councilors Dr. Antonio H. Mariano
Avelino J. Sabino
Rafael M. Reyes
Sinforsos Evangelista
Pedro R. Santos
Teodoro T. Catalan
Ramon F. Flordeliz
Francisco B. Isidro
Feliciano A. Trajano
Peter T. Seeckts
Manuel R. Quicho

Term coverage: 1980-1986
Mayor Gabriel L. Manrique
Vice Mayor Dr. Antonio H. Mariano
Teodoro T. Catalan
Peter T. Seeckts
Pedro T. Santos
Sinforsos Evangelista
Avelino Sabino
Remegio Sabino

Ramon F. Flordeliz
Rafael M. Reyes
Alfredo Q. Roxas
Alfredo E. Llamzon

(vice Avelino Sabino, May 1983)

ABC Roberto V. Fernandez
KB Elizabeth B. Zulueta

(vice Carlota Tamayo 1978)

Professional Manuel R. Quicho
Capitalist Ramon N. Villazor
Industrial/Labor Manuel Q. Quicho
Agriculture Pedro B. Cruz
ABC Alfredo G. Hernandez
KB Carlota Tamayo

(vice Elizabeth B. Zulueta)

Term coverage: 1972-1975
Mayor Gabriel L. Manrique
Vice Mayor Dr. Antonio H. Mariano
Councilors Avelino J. Sabino
Rafael M. Reyes
Sinforsos Evangelista
Pedro R. Santos
Jeremias Apolinarino
Ramon F. Flordeliz
Teodoro T. Catalan
Alfred T. Seeckts

Term coverage: 1976-1980
Mayor Gabriel L. Manrique
Councilors Dr. Antonio H. Mariano
Avelino J. Sabino
Rafael M. Reyes
Sinforsos Evangelista
Pedro R. Santos
Teodoro T. Catalan
Ramon F. Flordeliz
Francisco B. Isidro
Feliciano A. Trajano
Peter T. Seeckts
Manuel R. Quicho

Term coverage: 1980-1986
Mayor Gabriel L. Manrique
Vice Mayor Dr. Antonio H. Mariano
Teodoro T. Catalan
Peter T. Seeckts
Pedro T. Santos
Sinforsos Evangelista
Avelino Sabino
Remegio Sabino

Ramon F. Flordeliz
Rafael M. Reyes
Alfredo Q. Roxas
Alfredo E. Llamzon

(vice Avelino Sabino, May 1983)

ABC Roberto V. Fernandez
KB Elizabeth B. Zulueta

(vice Carlota Tamayo 1978)
## ORION MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS

### Term coverage: 1986-1987

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OIC Mayor</th>
<th>Alfredo L. Pangilinan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OIC Vice Mayor</td>
<td>Quirino Quicho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIC Councilors</td>
<td>Antonio J. Raymundo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jose B. Baltazar Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eufracio F. Pascual</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elino P. Valenzuela</td>
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<td>Manoling E. Cruz</td>
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<td>Arsenio C. Quicho</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Alberto H. Almazan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Remegio Angeles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABC</td>
<td>Roberto V. Fernandez</td>
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<tr>
<td>SK</td>
<td>Ariel M. Roque</td>
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### Term coverage: October 1987-January 1988

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mayor (acting)</th>
<th>Jose Q. Lim</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vice Mayor (acting)</td>
<td>Quirino R. Quicho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councilors (acting)</td>
<td>Jose Baltazar Jr.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Manoling Cruz</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conrado Rodriguez</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Guillermo Dizon</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Florentino Bantog</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Victor Lonzon</td>
</tr>
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<td>Roberto V. Fernandez</td>
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### Term coverage: 1988-1992

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<tr>
<td>Vice Mayor</td>
<td>Teodoro T. Catalan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Councilors</td>
<td>Celedonia B. Navarro</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jose Z. Joco</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Peter T. Seeckts</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Edgardo C. Florideliz</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Pedro T. Santos</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Antonio J. Raymundo</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rodolfo Apolinario</td>
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<td>Manuel G. Cruz</td>
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<td>Roberto V. Fernandez</td>
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### Term coverage: 1992-1995

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<tr>
<td>Vice Mayor</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Carlito B. Manrique</td>
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<td>Remegio R. Sabino</td>
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<td>Fernando M. Llamzon</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Peter T. Seeckts (1994)</td>
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<td>Eliseo Cuevas</td>
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<td>Sergio J. Mariano</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABC</td>
<td>Nelson E. Rodriguez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SK</td>
<td>Flordeliza Sabino (vice N. Rodriguez, 1993)</td>
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### Term coverage: 1995-1998

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mayor</th>
<th>Manuel C. Santos Jr.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vice Mayor</td>
<td>Antonio L. Raymundo Jr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Councilors</td>
<td>Reynaldo S. Waje</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jose Z. Joco</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Celedonia B. Navarro</td>
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<td>Eliseo V. Cuevas</td>
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<td>Nelson E. Rodriguez</td>
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<td>Flordeliza A. Sabino</td>
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<td>Rochelle A. Sabino</td>
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### Term coverage: 1998-2001

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<tr>
<td>Vice Mayor</td>
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<td>Romeo P. Mateo</td>
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<td>Edward T. Seeckts</td>
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<td>Remegio Sabino</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABC</td>
<td>Melinda N. Berja</td>
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<td>Chiqui N. Berja</td>
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### Term coverage: 2001-2004

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<td>Vice Mayor</td>
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<td>Celedonia B. Navarro</td>
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<td>Chiqui N. Berja</td>
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### Term coverage: 2004 to present

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<th>Mayor</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Luz D. Austria</td>
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<td>Angelita C. Santos</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Donald R. Chan</td>
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<td>Melinda Berja</td>
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<td>SK</td>
<td>Rex Joseph R. Fuster</td>
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</table>
Mayor Antonio L. Raymundo Jr.
at Sangguniang Bayan ng Orion

Ipagpatuloy ang Pagsulong ng Udyong!!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BARANGAY</th>
<th>Date established</th>
<th>Area (hectares)</th>
<th>Population (2000 Census)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Arellano</td>
<td>1915</td>
<td>3.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bagumbayan</td>
<td>1928</td>
<td>3.88</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Balangas</td>
<td>February 1972</td>
<td>35.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Balut</td>
<td>1928</td>
<td>20.15</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bantay</td>
<td>1915</td>
<td>141.52</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Bilobo</td>
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<td>755.22</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Calungusan</td>
<td>1875/1964</td>
<td>124.32</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Camachile</td>
<td>1915</td>
<td>64.26</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Capuritan</td>
<td>April 20, 1964</td>
<td>7.37</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Daan Bago</td>
<td>July 24, 1961</td>
<td>8.38</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Daan Bilolo</td>
<td>1928/1961</td>
<td>44.09</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Daan Pare</td>
<td>1819/1915</td>
<td>1,258.19</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>General Lim</td>
<td>Mar. 10, 1966</td>
<td>2,734.68</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Lat</td>
<td>July 24, 1961</td>
<td>5.47</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Lusungan</td>
<td>Feb. 15, 1962</td>
<td>2.80</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Puting Buhangin</td>
<td>March 23, 1964</td>
<td>319.69</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Sabatan</td>
<td>March 24, 1972</td>
<td>343.76</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>San Vicente</td>
<td>1667/1928</td>
<td>76.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Santa Elena</td>
<td>Sept. 7, 1988</td>
<td>25.43</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Sto. Domingo</td>
<td>1883/1915</td>
<td>302.04</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Villa Angeles</td>
<td>Feb. 4, 1972</td>
<td>8.31</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Wakas</td>
<td>1928/Jul. 24, 1961</td>
<td>14.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Wawa</td>
<td>July 24, 1961</td>
<td>7.07</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total:** 6,541.00 | 44,067
1300 – *The Malays settle in Luzon, in the areas surrounding Manila Bay, including Bataan.*

1400 – These settlers begin trading with Japanese and Chinese businessmen. Manila becomes the major trading center as well as other established localities in Luzon.

1521 – Magellan discovers the Philippines, March 16.

1565 – Miguel Lopez de Legaspi arrives in the country and begins Spanish colonization.

1587 – *Fr. Christopher Salvatierra sets foot in Bataan and discovers existing villages in Abucay, and the area between Orani and Calungsan and Pandam in Orion.*

1588 – Abucay, already inhabited by more than 2,000 natives, is made into a pueblo by Dominican missionaries. *Orion becomes a visita of Abucay*, June 10.

1607 – Franciscan fathers establish Morong as a pueblo.

1610 – Tomas Pinpin learns typographic printing in Abucay through Fr. Blancas de San Jose.

1634 – Lorenzo Ruiz, a Catholic layman from Binondo, arrives in Abucay for his scheduled mission to Japan along with Fr. Miguel Gonzales de Aozaraza.

1637 – Ruiz, Fr. Aozaraza and other missionaries sail from Abucay to Japan, May 10

1637 – Sucesos Felices, a book by Tomas Pinpin, is off the press.

1641 – Samal, a former visita of Abucay, is recognized as a town, April 20.

1647 – Two hundred of the 600 Pampango soldiers defending the Abucay church are shot and killed in the churchyard by Dutch invaders.

1667 – *Orion is recognized as Dominican pueblo (town). A wooden chapel is built in the Tutuban area, along the Santo Domingo River. It becomes the temporary home of St. Michael Archangel. Fr. Domingo Perez is assigned as first parish priest.*

1680 – A *new church made of bricks takes shape in Barangay San Vicente, after the death of Fr. Domingo Perez.*

1714 – Balanga and Orani become regular municipios, April 21.

1751 – *Orion registers a population of 1,083.*

1754 – Mariveles is recognized as a regular town.

1756 – Hermosa is established as a new town, May 8.

1763 – *Some 60 British troopers and other mercenaries land in Orion but were repulsed by the combined Spanish soldiers and Orion natives, April 28.*
ORION HISTORY IN CAPSULE

Local revolutionaries start the siege of Orion in May 1898.

**Domestic Legacy**

The Dominicans were able to establish Abucay (1588), San Juan (1589), Orion (1587), Gapan (1719), Balanga (1714), and Hermosa (1757). Pilar was founded by the Seculars in 1801 but turned over to the Dominicans in 1833. Dinalupihan was also established by Secular priests.

**Locals join the Katipunan**

1768 – Spanish Governor General Jose Raon orders all secular priests to take over the curacies held by regular priests.

1770 – An unnamed vicar of Orion turns over the parish to Fr. Domingo Ursua of the Secular Clergy, June 18.

1801 – Pilar is recognized as a regular town of Bataan through the initiative of the Secular Clergy, March 10.

1822 – The Dominicans take back their former curacies as ordered by Spanish King Ferdinand VII.

1832 – Orion church is finally returned to the Dominicans and placed under the stewardship of Fr. Miguel Lerma.

1842 – Well-known poet, Francisco Baltazar marries Juana Tiambeng in Orion. Fr. Cayetano Arellano, uncle of the first chief justice of the Supreme Court, officiates the wedding, July 22.

1847 – Cayetano Arellano, first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, is born.

1852 – An earthquake hits Orion and causes severe damages to the Orion church.

1862 – The church of Orion is damaged by fire, September 16; Francisco Baltazar dies.

1865 – Dinalupihan makes it to the list of regular towns of Bataan.

1870 – A two-storey parochial school opens in Orion; Enrollment figure reaches to 300 students.

1873 – Bagac is added to the list of regular municipios of Bataan.

1875 – Capunitan is established as a barrio of Orion.

1877 – Limay is the last town to be recognized as part of Bataan, July 4.

1880 – Cholera strikes Abucay; victims die as fast as they contacted the disease.

1883 – Sto. Domingo is recognized as a barrio of Orion.

1885 – The Church of Pilar is finally covered with galvanized iron sheets.

1885 – Gregorio del Rosario Quicho, Bataan governor from 1926-1929 and 1929-1931, is born in Lati, Orion, Dec. 15.

1893 – A big fire razes the town center of Orion, May 3; Jose dela Guardia, Spanish governor of Bataan, writes the Governor General to revert the status of Mabatang from a town to a barrio, Aug. 22.

1898 – Victor Baltazar and his Katipuneros defeat the Spaniards in Pulta (Daan Pare). Orion falls into the hands of Katipuneros. The Pilar church is burned by local rebels led by Gregorio Puigio. The convent also goes up in smoke, May 28; Spanish authorities in Balanga also surrender to Gen. Domingo Alonzo, May 29.
1899 – Captain John Gouldman and his American troops attack Orion and burn Santo Domingo to the ground as a result of the “Caminong Putol” ambush incident, September 15.

1900 – Victor and Luis Baltazar, both revolutionary leaders in Orion surrender to Captain Gouldman.

1901 – The Americans establish a civil government in Bataan. Captain John Gouldman becomes the first military governor of Bataan, January 1.

1901 – Vicente Rodriguez is appointed presidente actual (mayor) of Orion, Aug. 10.

1903 – Luis Baltazar becomes the first elected mayor of Orion through acclamation.


1905 – Governor Lorenzo Zialcita names Orani as capital of Bataan. Simeon Rodriguez of Bantan is elected mayor of Orion, the third top town executive since 1901.

1907 – Simeon Rodriguez is re-elected mayor of Orion; Camachile is separated from Sto. Domingo. Others claim that the separation transpired in 1914.

1909 – Mariano Angeles is elected 4th mayor of Orion.

1911 – Governor Mariano Rosauro returns to Balanga its title as capital of Bataan.

1912 – Francisco Calimbas reigns as 5th mayor of Orion.

1914 – Francisco Urquiza becomes 6th mayor of Orion, along with Esteban Dupungan as vice mayor.

1915 – Bantan, formerly called Barangay de Juan Enriquez, and Daan Pare are created as regular barrios of Orion.

1916 – Donato Calimbas is elected 7th mayor in the first most expensive election in the country. Nicasio Baluyut is the vice mayor.

1917 – American Governor General Francis Burton Harrison formalizes the creation of Limay as a town, January 1.

1918 – Aproniano Tiambeng is elected as 8th mayor of Orion. Agapito Angeles is vice mayor.
ORION HISTORY IN CAPSULE

Two Towns, One Mayor
Orion and Pilar are merged as one town in 1919 and placed under military control by Governor Pedro Rich. Simeon Rodriguez is appointed as mayor of the two towns until 1921.

1919 – Gov. Conrado Lerma of Pilar is shot and killed by Jose Baluyut of Orion. Orion is placed under military control by appointed Gov. Pedro Rich. Weeks later, Orion is annexed to Pilar. Simeon Rodriguez, former mayor of Orion, is appointed mayor of Pilar and Orion from 1919 to 1921.

1920 – Alberto Aquino wins as new governor of Bataan. Bataan High School is finally moved to Balanga. Orion returns to its normal status as regular town with its own mayor.

1920 – Cayetano Arellano, former Chief Justice, dies, Dec. 23
1921 – Perfecto Evangelista is new Orion mayor, the 10th since 1901.
1923 – Fausto Paguio wins as 11th Orion mayor. His vice mayor is Francisco Calimbas, a former mayor.
1925 – Manuel Santos is elected 12th mayor of Orion; Agustin Angeles is vice mayor.
1926 – Jose Rizal Institute-Orion opens inside the Orion convent.
1927 – Manuel Santos Sr. is re-elected mayor, together with Vice Mayor Simeon Rodriguez.
1928 – Arellano, Balut, Daan Bilolo and Bagumbayan are created as regular barangays of Orion.
1929 – Manuel Santos Sr. and Simeon Rodriguez get re-elected as mayor and vice-mayor.
1930 – Limay gets its own parish.
1931 – Pilar’s new church, the present one, is built in front of the old church across the street. Jose Baltazar becomes 13th mayor of Orion. The vice mayor is Mariano Mejia.
1934 – Valeriano Soriano (14th) and Alejo Candido are poll winners as new mayor and vice mayor of Orion.
1934 – Manuel L. Quezon and Sergio Osmena Sr. are sworn in as President and Vice President of the Philippine Commonwealth, November 15.
1937 – Agapito Rivera becomes 15th mayor of Orion, with Estanislao Cuevas as vice mayor.
1938 – Bantan Barrio Primary School opens, June 10.
1941 – Arsenio Joco wins as 16th mayor of Orion. Estanislao Cuevas is re-elected as vice mayor.
1941 – Pearl Harbor in Hawaii is attacked by the Japanese Navy and Air Force. This signals the start of World War II, December 7.

The attack on Pearl Harbor on December 8, 1942 signals the start of World War II.
1941 – War Plan Orange 3 takes effect. USAFFE forces troop to Bataan for a last stand against the Japanese aggressors. The arrival of many American and Filipino soldiers in Orion surprise the residents, December 28.

1942 – Mabatang is burned down by USAFFE to clear the area for enemy visibility. The defense line collapses, January 17.

1942 – The Japanese Army concentrate their attack on the Orion-Bagac Defense Line; Mount Samat in Pilar is the center of bloody encounters, April 1.

1942 – The Japanese captures the USAFFE’s positions atop Mount Samat, April 5.

1942 – The Orion-Bagac Defense Lines is broken; General Edward King surrenders Bataan to the Japanese Army, April 9; the infamous Death March begins, April 10.

1942 – Arsenio Joco continues to serve as mayor until 1945.

1945 – General Douglas MacArthur returns to the Philippines to liberate the country; In March, the Banzai Counter-Attack transpires in the vicinity of the old Orion public market where several Japanese soldiers were killed by the American forces.

1945 – A month after the bombings of Nagasaki and Hiroshima, Japan signs the terms of surrender to the Allied Forces on board USS Missouri at Tokyo Bay; The war is over, September 2.

1945 – Newly-installed Philippine President Sergio Osmeña reorganizes national and local government units immediately after the war. Teodoro Camacho, former Congressman, is appointed new governor.

1945 – Emiliano Navarro is appointed by Gov. Camacho as the 17th mayor of Orion, together with Vice Mayor Quirino Quicho, September 8; The population of Orion is merely 4,000.

1946 – Agustin Angeles is appointed as replacement of Emiliano Navarro. He becomes the 18th mayor of Orion.
1946 – Manuel Roxas and Elpidio Quirino are elected president and vice president of the Philippines. Bonifacio Camacho of Abucay is the new Bataan congressman. Joaquin J. Linao of Morong is appointed new Bataan governor, August 5.
1947 – An election for local officials is held, November 12.
1948 – Emilio Naval of Balanga becomes new governor. Agustin Angeles wins at the polls and continues serving Orion from January 1, 1948 to December 31, 1951.
1948 – President Manuel Roxas dies, April 15. Elpidio Quirino is sworn in as new president, April 17.
1949 – Election for barangay lieutenants is held, Feb. 8.
1949 – Simeon Rodriguez, former Orion mayor, dies, April 9; Mrs. Aurora Aragon Quezon, widow of former President Quezon, and her daughter Baby and ten others are killed in an ambush in Bongabon, Nueva Ecija. Bandits and Huks are the primary suspects, April 28.
1949 – Elpidio Quirino wins the polls as president of the Philippines, November 11; The name Barrio Pulong Bato is changed to Puting Buhangin, Nov. 18.
1950 – Medina Lacson de Leon of Balanga becomes Bataan congresswoman after beating re-electionist Congressman Bonifacio Camacho of Abucay, January 2; Capunitan Elementary School opens to the public, June 11.
1951 – Local officials also get elected and Adelmo Camacho beats Emilio Naval in the gubernatorial race, November 13.
1952 – Former Mayor Manuel R. Santos Sr. returns to the municipio as the 19th mayor of Orion, together with Quirino Quicho, vice mayor, Jan. 1.
1953 – Ramon Magsaysay, former Defense Secretary, wins as president in the November 10 national elections. Carlos P. Garcia is the vice president. JV Cruz, a native of Bataan, becomes Press Secretary. Fortunato de Leon of Arellano, Orion is appointed as President Magsaysay’s Executive Secretary. For Congress, Atty. Jose R. Nuguid of Orani beats re-electionist Congresswoman Medina Lacson de Leon.
1954 – Luis Taruc of the Hukbalahap group surrenders to the government, May 17; Jose Rizal Institute relocates to its new campus site in San Vicente, June 8.
1955 – Adelmo Camacho is suspended; Federico Muli of Dinalupihan acts as governor from April 23 to May 16; The new Bantan Elementary School opens in its present site.
1955 – Local elections are held. Emilio Ma. Naval becomes governor of Bataan while Alberto Cristobal is elected mayor of Orion, the 20th; Andres Buenaventura is the new vice mayor; Gabriel Pascual, a native of Wakas who became a well-known businessman based in Manila, loses in his bid for a congressional seat against incumbent Congressman Jose R. Nuguid, November 8.
1956 – Antonio L. Raymundo Jr., current Orion mayor, is born in Wawa, August 8.
1959 – November 14 is picked as date for local elections. Office of the vice governor is included. *Starting this year, Balagtas Day (April 2) is celebrated as a special public holiday in Orion.*

1960 – Ferdinand Marcos leads the list of the newly-elected senators. In Bataan, Atty. Pedro Dizon, former mayor of Balanga, gets elected as governor; Atty. Faustino Vigo, also a former Balanga mayor, is the vice governor.

1960 – *Manuel R. Santos defeats Alberto Cristobal and becomes 21st mayor. Dr. Jose Quicho is the new vice mayor.*

1960 – John F. Kennedy is elected as US President in the November polls.

1961 – *Daan Bago, Wakas, Wawa and Lati are recognized as regular barangays, July 24; Diosdado Macapagal beats Carlos Garcia for the presidency; Emmanuel Pelaez is vice president; Jose R. Nuguid is still Bataan congressman, November 14.*

1962 – The celebration of Independence Day is changed from July 4 to June 12 as per President Macapagal’s executive order, February 6. *Lusungan is established as a regular barangay, Feb. 15.*

1962 – Stanvac in Limay changes name to ESSO, June 10.

1964 – Atty. Pedro Dizon is reelected governor of Bataan, beating Atty. Faustino Vigo. Guillermo Arcenas, former mayor of Hermosa, is the new vice governor. *Ricardo T. Angeles wins in the local polls, beating Bernardo Pizarro. He becomes the 22nd town mayor. The vice mayor is Felizardo Bernabe, a former councilor, January 1.*

1964 – *The construction of the Bataan School of Fisheries starts in Barangay Daan Bago; Calungusan, Capunitan and Puting Buhangin are recognized as barangays, March 23.*


1965 – Ferdinand Marcos defeats Diosdado Macapagal for the presidency; Fernando Lopez is new vice president; November 9.

1966 – Don Pablo Roman of Pilar beats Jose R. Nuguid for the congressional post of Bataan, January 1; Roman is selected as one of the 20 outstanding congressmen of the Philippines, December 20.

1967 – Construction of the Shrine of Valor atop Mount Samat starts, May 2.

1967 – Guillermo Arcenas is winner of the provincial polls over Governor Pedro Dizon. Efren Pascual is vice governor. *Gabriel L. Manrique wins over Ricardo Angeles and becomes the 23rd mayor of Orion; Ernesto Pascual is the new vice mayor, November 14.*
1968 – Arcenas assumes office after resolution of Dizon’s protest, April 1.
1969 – Inauguration of the Shrine of Valor at Mount Samat is held; President Ferdinand Marcos is special guest, April 9.
1969 – Bonifacio Camacho Memorial High School opens in Calaylayan, June 7.
1969 – Ferdinand Marcos is reelected president by beating Sergio Osmeña Jr. Fernando Lopez is still vice president, November 9.
1971 – Elections for local officials is held, November 11. Gabriel Manrique is re-elected mayor, with Dr. Antonio H. Mariano as new vice mayor.
1972 – Former vice governor Efren B. Pascual of Orani is sworn in as new governor after winning over Guillermo Arcenas. Atty. Rufino Navarro of Samal is elected vice governor.
1972 – Villa Angeles and Balagtas are recognized as new barangays, Feb. 4; Sabatan on March 24.

Anti-Marcos protests
1972 – Ferdinand Marcos declares Martial Law (Proclamation 1081), September 21.
1973 – Construction of the Roman Expressway starts April 7.
1973 – Commodore Rudiardo Brown, a Marine Commandant and native of Orion, dies in a plane crash in Laoao, Limay; Manuel R. Santos Sr., a former mayor of Orion, dies, Oct. 3.
1974 – The first Orion Municipal High School opens inside the Capunitan Elementary School campus, June 8.
1975 – The Friendship Tower in Bagac is inaugurated, May 9; Gregorio R. Quicho, former Bataan governor from Orion, dies in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, Sept. 9.
1976 – Efren B. Pascual is still governor with 14 representatives forming the Citizen Assembly. Judy Carunungan is the Kabataang Barangay chairman while Pablo Roman Jr. represents the Federated Association of Barangay Captains, Feb. 4.
1976 – Manrique remains as Orion town executive despite the absence of election. The new municipal council is composed of 18 municipal representatives. The position of vice mayor is abolished.
1976 – Judy Carunungan of Pilar is elected KB representative at-large, thus becoming an Assemblywoman, together with Antonino Roman.
1977 – The Roman Expressway is completed, July 16.
1978 – Mauricio Q. Pizarro of Pilar is the new DECS Bataan Division schools superintendent, November 20.
1979 – Despite a national purge, Gabriel Manrique remains as the town mayor of Orion. Atty. Efren B. Pascual resumes as governor of Bataan; Orion Water District is established.
1979 – Gov. Linao Highway is completed, December 5.
1980 – Efren B. Pascual takes oath as re-elected governor along with Carolina Beltran as vice governor.
1980 – Manrique continues as municipal mayor of Orion after beating Ricardo Angeles during the January 31 local elections. Dr. Antonio H. Mariano is still the vice mayor.
1981 – Mayor Carlos Pizarro Sr. opens classes for first year students of the Pilar Municipal High School (now called Pablo Roman National High School), June 7.
1981 – Ferdinand Marcos beats Alejo Santos and Bartolome Cabangbang for the presidency, June 16.
1981 – Assemblyman Antonino Roman is appointed by Marcos as deputy finance minister, Sept. 9.
1982 – Jose Payumo of Dinalupihan is elected president of the Bataan Mayors League. Barangay Captain Victoriano Swin of Capuanit is shot and killed by armed men, July 12.
1984 – The first Orion Municipal High School (more popularly known as Balagtas High School) closes down due to financial problem;
1986 – Snap election is held February 7.
1986 – Leonardo “Ding” Roman is appointed OIC governor of Bataan; Mayor Gabby Manrique is replaced by OIC Mayor Alfredo Pangilinan, the 24th mayor, March 18; Former Mayor Gabriel Manrique dies, Sept. 5.
1987 – Jose Lim is sworn as acting mayor during local election. He earns the title of 25th mayor of Orion.
1988 – Manuel C. Santos Jr. wins as 26th mayor of Orion after besting OIC Mayor Fred Pangilinan and Tony Mariano, February 1.
1992 – National and local elections are held, May 11.
1992 – Cory ends term; Fidel Ramos is elected new president, July 1.
1992 – Enrique “Tet” Garcia wins as governor of Bataan over Ding Roman; Dr. Antonio H. Mariano, former vice mayor wins over Manuel Santos Jr. He becomes the 27th mayor of Orion. Erlinda Guzman is new vice mayor, September 1.

1993 – Recall election is held in Bataan, the first in the country. Tet Garcia loses to Ding Roman, December 20.

1994 – Leonardo Roman takes over as governor, July 1.

1995 – Elections for local officials are held. Roman wins as governor, May 10.

1995 – Manuel C. Santos Jr. becomes the 28th mayor of Orion; Antonio L. Raymundo Jr. is vice mayor, July 1.


1998 – Joseph Estrada is new Philippine president after winning in the May 14, 2001 polls. Gloria Arroyo is vice president. Ding Roman is governor while Tet Garcia and Tony Roman win as congressmen. Manuel Santos Jr. defeats his former Vice Mayor Antonio Raymundo Jr.; Eugenia Mariano is vice mayor, July 1.

1998 – Former Congressman Felicito Payumo replaces Dick Gordon as SBMA chairman.


2000 – Estrada is deposed after EDSA 2. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, the vice president, takes over as President, January 25.

2001 – Antonio L. Raymundo Jr. is elected mayor of Orion, the 29th; Dr. Rolando Banzon is vice mayor; July 1.

2002 – Orion National High School opens in Barangay Balagtas, June 8; St. Michael Hospital, a private institution, is inaugurated; New SK officials and Punong barangays are elected, July 15.

2004 – National and local polls are held. Gloria Arroyo beats movie actor Fernando Poe Jr. while Noli de Castro wins over Loren Legarda.

2004 – Enrique “Tet” Garcia is sworn in as new governor of Bataan after beating former Vice Governor Rogelio Boy Roque. Ben Alonzo wins as vice governor. In Orion, Antonio Raymundo Jr. is re-elected for his second term against former Mayor Manuel Santos Jr.; Virgilio Isidro of Bantan wins as vice mayor, July 1.

2005 – Dominador Venegas of Orion, former congressman of the second district of Bataan, dies at age 84.

2006 – Orion becomes a third class municipality.
The ORION-BAGAC DEFENSE LINE is referred to as the second defense line put up in Bataan by the USAFFE (USFIP) against the advancing Japanese Imperial Army during World War II.

Under “War Plan Orange B,” Bataan was divided into two major defense groups. Eastern Bataan was placed under II Corps while the western part was covered by the I Corps. Two defense lines were drawn.

The Abucay-Morong Defense Line was the first defense formation. It was manned by the 57th Infantry Regiment of the Philippine Scouts, 41st Division headed by General Vicente Lim and the 51st Division of the Philippine Army led by General Clifford Bluemel of the US Army, together with the 11th and 21st Divisions.

Preparing the defense line necessitated the clearing of trees and burning of houses in Mabatang for enemy visibility. Only the church and two 18th century houses were spared and used as command posts. The line from the beach to Mount Natib was lined with spiraling barbed wire and foxholes. Wide clear areas were planted with land mines.

The line was attacked by the 200,000-strong Japanese Army on January 9, 1942. It continued day and night until January 17. The Filipino and American soldiers fought bravely. Though outnumbered and hungry, they stood on their respective positions, holding the enemy at bay for as long as they could hold.

The Japanese major assault in Abucay came in January 17. Fully recognizing a lost battle, the defenders retreated to the Orion-Bagac line on January 24. Fierce fightings were recorded in the Mount Samat (Pilar) area.

There was a lull in fighting in Bataan starting on February 18, 1942. The Japanese Air Force, which at the start of the invasion was busy in aerial attacks, was withdrawn out of the Philippines. The period of lull was characterized by a battle of propaganda from both sides. On March 20, one Japanese infantry division arrived in the Philippines as…..
...reinforcement, complete with war supplies like artillery and airplanes. Two days later, the Japanese started saturation bombings of Corregidor. General Homma ordered a new artillery fire and saturation bombings of Mount Samat and its surroundings on April 1 to celebrate the founding of the Japanese Empire. Then the Japanese Infantry launched simultaneous attacks on Mount Samat two days later. In just one day, the Japanese were able to capture the northern part of Mount Samat. Casualty was heavy on both sides. On April 5, the Japanese reached the top of Mount Samat and used it as observation post.

On April 7, the Japanese entered Orion where remnants of the USAFFE defenders continued to fight it out with the enemy. Meanwhile, another group of defenders prepared still another line along the Mamala River in Limay knowing that the USAFFE will soon abandon Orion.

The Alangan Defense Line was established on April 8. In the afternoon, it collapsed. The Lamao Defense Line was established on April 9 but it was immediately abandoned. General Bluemel also established the Cabcaben Defense Line but it was no longer necessary.

At about 9:30 a.m. of April 9, emissaries of General Edward P. King were sent to the Japanese line to negotiate for a truce. At 12:30 p.m., General King proceeded to the Lamao Agricultural Experimental Station and signed the initial documents of surrender in the presence of Colonel Motoo Nakayana, a representative of General Homma. Bataan fell on April 9, 1942.

On April 10, General King and some American officials were brought to the Balanga Elementary School. There he signed the final surrender documents. That same day, the infamous “Death March” started from Mariveles and Bagac.
The year 1907 saw the birth of the ORION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, also known to many as the Cayetano Arellano Memorial Elementary School. For the record, the first public learning institution in the municipality has been in existence for the past 100 years. The school celebrated its Centennial foundation with elaborate activities highlighted by the recognition for its Outstanding Alumni. What was once a wooden two-classroom building built in the middle of rice paddies had survived the destructive work of the elements and the passing of time and remained as the central public learning institution in Orion.

There was no formal educational system way back during the Spanish period. Fortunate residents, both young and old, learned to read and write through the “Katon” method, either at home or at the kumbento (convent). When the Americans came, they immediately established the public school system in Orion and in various parts of the country. It was part of the so-called Benevolent Assimilation campaign of the new masters. They thought that by propagating the educational system, they would be able to suppress the growing Filipino nationalism and convince them that the Americans were their guides and partners in progress. The Thomasites, community workers from the United States, were sent to the Philippines to propagate the said school system.

The implementation of the educational program in Orion started in 1903. The homes of some civic-spirited residents of Orion were used as initial classrooms. The English language became the medium of instruction for effective communication between the colonizers and the colonized. A year later, residents who acquired a minimum knowledge of English were hired as the first Filipino teachers. A woman known to be the mistress of a certain Mr. Rath, who owned a canning factory in Bagumbayan (near the San Vicente River), was also employed as a teacher.

In 1905, classes were transferred to the present municipio site where a chalet-type building was ordered built by former Mayor Simeon Rodriguez. As expected, the student population expanded as children from distant barangays like Bantan and Puting Buhangin enrolled in the school.

It was one Mariano Angeles, a rich landowner from Wakas, who donated the initial 1.3-hectare lot he owned in Daan Bilolo.....
...for school use. Adjoining lots were later either purchased or donated in response to the need for a bigger campus for elementary pupils in Orion. It is now presently occupying a three-hectare site. The incumbent Mayor Simeon Rodriguez (1905-1907 and 1907-1909) immediately initiated the construction of two new school buildings in the middle of rice paddies in late 1906. The facility was inaugurated in 1907 and initially called Orion Municipal School.

Angeles, who also served as mayor of Orion from 1909-1910 to 1910-1912, added another building to accommodate the growing population of students.

The first Gabaldon buildings in Orion were built and inaugurated in 1925. Both the main building and the Science Room, also of Gabaldon-type, are still in existence today. The shop building, Home Economics building, the Rosalina Fonacier building (where the present stage is located) and a two-storey building were also built inside the campus in succession. Most of these buildings were damaged during the war and had to be torn down for the safety of the pupils and the teachers. In their place, new buildings were built immediately after the war.

At present, Orion Elementary School has a total of 56 classrooms well-spread in 23 buildings.

Some of the notable teachers of the school include Gloria Santos Factores, Emiliano Carlos, Aurea Legaspi, Concordia Cunan, Anelio Puno, Fanny Baltazar-Pascual, Emilia Gancayco, Rufina Chan, Ambrocio Alarcon, Matilde Sto. Domingo, Magdalena Lazaro, Marina Santos, Andres Simeon, Cayetano Alarcon, Munray Reyes, Efrenia Tambeng, Herminia Mejia, Marcela Guzman, Martha Tambeng, Rodrigo Sapuyot, Rosario del Rosario, Maria Rodriguez, Rogaciano Sanchez, Martha Sanchez, Susana dela Peña and Carlos Tiango. Some of them rose to the ranks as principal, district and division supervisors.

Orion Elementary School is among the best public schools in the province with respect to pupil achievement, teacher competence and efficiency and administrative prowess. On many occasions, it was adjudged as a division pilot school in various subjects.

There is a continuing growth in the number of pupils coming from the poblacion and adjoining barangays who seek enrolment at OES due to its location, accessibility, pleasant and spacious campus and excellent instructions. SY 2006-2007 brings about 1654 pupils (I-VI) mentored by 57-strong teachers.

Dr. Amelia Nohay is the current school principal. She replaced Marcelino Zulueta on June 2006.

The school is presently known as Orion Elementary School. It remains as the central primary and intermediate school in Orion.

In August 1966, the municipal council passed a resolution renaming it as Cayetano Arellano Memorial School. There is no existing document to prove that the municipal resolution was either approved or disapproved in the provincial council. But whatever name it is known today, the school takes pride in producing graduates who became professionals and successful in their chosen fields. They keep coming back and pay visits to the school which gave them their basic knowledge.
Old Buildings: Left photo, Arellano Building now used as Administrative Building, right photo, the Camacho Building, now Science Building.

Children and teachers involved in clean and green program

Beata Samaniego, PSDS (2nd from left, standing) with Dr. Amelia Nohay (extreme left), standing and other OES teachers

Fonacier Building
District teachers of Orion in front of the former Fonacier Building
50 YEARS AFTER 1907. Orion Elementary School Teaching Staff.

100 YEARS LATER. The school mentors in SY 2006 — 2007
The ORION NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL in Barangay Balagtatas is the only public high school in Orion. It was inaugurated and officially opened in June 2002, during the first term of Mayor Antonio L. Raymundo Jr.

The school was the “Dream Come True” of incumbent Orion Mayor Antonio L. Raymundo Jr. through the support and assistance of Dr. Norma P. Castillo, Division School Superintendent, Congressman Rodolfo C. Bacani of Manila, Undersecretary Ramon Bacani and former DECS Secretary Raul Roco. Three two-storey buildings worth P20,000,000 were initially constructed on a 8,000 square meter lot donated by the family of Pablo Cuevas. An additional 2,000 square meter lot was bought by the provincial government while Orion businessman Joey Sioson donated the road (about 3,000 square meters) leading to the campus. The buildings were inaugurated during the term of former Gov. Leonardo B. Roman.

The third building was completed during the first year administration of current Bataan Governor Enrique T. Garcia Jr. Another two-storey building and the so-called one-storey TET building and a 20,000 gallon overhead water tank, were added to the existing campus in 2004 through the initiative of Governor Garcia Jr., Congressman Albert S. Garcia and Mayor Raymundo Jr. The projects were started on August 16, 2004 and completed on October 15, 2005.

For the School Year 2006-2007, the student population reached the 1,215 mark. The school held its first graduation rites in April 2006. The first batch of graduates totaled 204. Dr. Antonio Q. de Guzman is the first and current principal of the school.
ORION PORT

Port Tomas Capinpin was initially built in late 1967 by the Philippine Port Authority. A hydrofoil initially serviced passengers from Pulong Bato to Manila and vice versa. An expansion program worth P300 million was introduced at the port by President Fidel V. Ramos. The port currently has facilities for Ro-Ro operations but remained inoperative. A P35 million cruise terminal is expected to rise soon at the Pulong Buhangin port.

President Arroyo leads in the groundbreaking ceremony of the Diosdado Macapagal Cruise Terminal, May 29, 2006.

Cruise ferry service

ORION PORT

Orion has a municipal port located in Barangay Puting Buhangin. It is more popularly known as Port General Tomas Capinpin. The port was initially used for the operation of a hydrofoil passenger vessel during the late 1967. It catered to businessmen doing business in Limay and Mariveles, specifically at the former Bataan Export Processing Zone.

Most of the facilities at the port are for passenger operations. This include, a booking/ticketing office, a passenger waiting area, commercial stalls, vehicular parking and a covered walkway connecting the passenger area to the ferry doc-king area. There is also a public transportation available in the port which includes tricycles and shuttles to transport the passengers to and from the port.

The Orion municipal port is being used as an alternative transport for passengers in going to and coming from Metro Manila. The port on the Metro Manila side is located at the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex.

Proposed Diosdado Macapagal Cruise Terminal

The initial operator of the Manila-Bataan route is the Mount Samar Ferry Liner which offers six trips (total of 12, both ways) daily from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. It is a 180-capacity passenger vessel but its actual average number of passengers per trip is 100.

In early 2006, Sun Cruise, another ferry service, started its operation at Orion Port. It offers three trips (total of six, both ways) daily.

The port is being renovated and upgraded to comply with the new program and policies of the national government for seaports, which include RO-RO (roll on-roll off) operations. As present, the RO-RO facility in Orion is not fully operational because the port still lacks some of the supporting infrastructure. The municipal government unit has been continuously communicating with the appropriate national agencies on the improvement of existing infrastructures within the port area.

On May 29, 2006, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo led the groundbreaking ceremony for the proposed P35 million Diosdado Macapagal Cruise Terminal at Port Capinpin.
ORION PUBLIC MARKET is the major commercial center of Orion. It is located in Barangay Balagtas, north of Orion town plaza.

The market is a 6,520 square meter building situated in a one-hectare lot. It maintains dry and wet stalls for market vendors and costumers. It also has a wide area for parking space. It was built of reinforced concrete, masonry and covered by steel trusses and G.I. roof sheets. It was completed in 1997, during the administration of Mayor Manuel Santos Jr.

The municipal slaughterhouse is located in Pag-asal, Barangay Wawa. To date, it needs repair and upgrading to meet the requirements set by the national agency for meat standard.

Orion has two fishports which are located in Barangays Lusungan and Wawa. Both have a docking area and a drier for fishermen. The fishports have no cold storage and other post-harvest facilities.

The market and slaughterhouse presently contribute some P199,441.00 monthly to the municipal treasury.

Meanwhile, some enterprising residents put up talipapas in various places in Orion. These mini-marts provide the daily food requirements of residents who are relatively living far from the center of the town.

OLD MARKET SITES:

The old public market of Orion was located in Barangay Arellano, beside the residence of former Mayor Manuel Santos Jr. It is presently being used by the Sangguniang Bayan of Orion and other local government offices. After a big fire in 1935, the market was transferred to Barangay Wakas. The 1,500 square meter lot is situated along the Bataan National Road, near the Orion Bridge. The market opened in 1935. Records showed that the market area was the scene of fierce fightings between the Liberation forces and the Japanese Army in February 1945. The second market also burned to the ground as a result of the fighting. It was reconstructed in 1950 at the cost of P70,000.00. The old market’s site is presently occupied by the St. Michael Hospital which opened in 2002.
**ORION WATER DISTRICT**

ORION WATER DISTRICT (ORIWAD) is one of the four waterworks systems in Orion. The other three are the San Vicente Waterworks, Lati Waterworks and Bantan Waterworks. The four facilities supply water to 2,616 households, about 30 percent of the total 8,735 households in Orion. All the four waterworks have deep wells with submersible pumping stations and watertanks as main water supply sources.

ORIWAD was established in 1992 during the administration of Mayor Antonio H. Mariano and Vice Mayor Erlinda Guzman. It chiefly serves barangays not served by the three other waterworks systems. It services some 2,180 households which makes it the biggest water facility in town.

Lati Waterworks supplies water to residents of Barangay Lati while the San Vicente Waterworks is exclusive to Barangay San Vicente. Bantan Waterworks covers the whole of Bantan (Grande).

**Pablo Roman Elementary School**

The PABLO ROMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL is one of the most impressive projects initiated and completed in Orion by former Mayor Gabriel L. Manrique. The school has risen beyond the expectations of those who witnessed the growth of the institution that grew out of a reclaimed area in Pag-asa, Barangay Wawa.

The school was named after Don Pablo Roman, former congressman of Bataan who is acknowledged as the father of the first export processing zone in the country. The school is considered as one of the best and most complete schools among the other barrio schools in the municipality. It has well-furnished classrooms and has its own covered court to boast of.

Pablo Roman Elementary School was inaugurated on June 19, 1978. It serves not only the children of Wawa but the neighboring barangays as well, such as Daan Bago, Bagumbayan, Lusungan and Balut.

For the school year 2005-2006, the number of children enrolled was registered at 382.

Zenaida B. Isidro is the current school principal. She is being assisted by 13 other teachers.
FAUSTO PAGUIO ( - ) was the 11th mayor of Orion. He served from 1923 to 1925.

Paguio is said to have his roots in Pilar and only settled in San Vicente, Orion after his marriage. He was an acknowledged song composer in the company of some famous musicians in Bataan like Toribio David, Mariano and Pedro Dimalanta of Hermosa, Nicolas Flores and Mariano Danque of Abucay, Claudio Valenzuela of Samal and Roque Sevilla of Orani and Jose Tuazon of Balanga who wrote “Magtanim ay Di Biro.” He was also one of the incorporators of Jose Rizal Institute (JRI).

He ran for mayor against Perfecto Evangelista, the incumbent mayor, and won. His Vice Mayor was Francisco Calimbas, also a former mayor.

ALFREDO LACSON PANGILINAN (1932 - ) served as the 24th mayor of Orion from 1986 to 1987. He succeeded former Mayor Gabriel L. Manrique as a result of the EDSA Revolution of 1986.

Mayor Pangilinan was born in Orion on February 13, 1932. His parents were Gregorio F. Pangilinan and Vicenta Lacson, both natives of Orion. He finished his primary and secondary education from the Orion Elementary School and Jose Rizal Institute. He completed his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the Far Eastern University in Manila.

Pangilinan was employed as cashier at the Bataan Refining Company (now Petron Bataan Refinery) in Alangan, Limay. He retired in 1981 after 15 years of service to the company.

Soon after, Pangilinan was deeply involved in the trucking business. His appointment as OIC-Mayor of Orion was approved by Secretary Nene Pimentel of the Department of Interior and Local Government. After taking his oath of office, he ministered the affairs of Orion from May 1986 to September 1987. Being a graduate of Business Administration, the fiscal management of the local government of Orion became his main concern during his administration.

He also aspired for an extension of his government service. He ran for the same position during the 1988 local elections. It was former Board Member Manuel Santos Jr. who won at the polls over him and Dr. Antonio Mariano.

Pangilinan ran again for mayor during the 1992 polls against Mayor Santos and Dr. Tony Mariano. Mayor Tony Mariano won the election.

Pangilinan is married to the former Natividad Naval, public school teacher, with whom he has three children: Raymund (Economics graduate, MBA and Doctorate in Canon Law); John Arnell (Doctor of Medicine); and Maria Alna (Masscom graduate of Maryknoll College).
PANGILINAN, Pedro E.

PEDRO ESTRADA PANGILINAN (1904-1974) was Orion’s vice mayor from 1946 to 1951, during the incumbency of Mayor Agustin L. Angeles.

Pangilinan was a native of Barangay Capunitan. He was born on June 20, 1904 to parents Felipe Pangilinan and Genoveva Estrada. He completed his primary education at the Orion Elementary School. He enrolled at the Arellano Memorial Bataan High School but was not able to finish his high school education. Life at sea became his daily means of livelihood. Later, he learned the lucrative art of marketing fish products and became a major supplier during the war years (1941-1945).

In 1946, he and Agustin L. Angeles were appointed by acting Governor Joaquin J. Linao as vice mayor and mayor of Orion, respectively. After a year in office, they ran for the same position against the tandem of former Vice Mayor Estanislao Cuevas (1937-1940) and former Mayor Emiliano Navarro (1945-1946). The result of the 1947 local elections went into their favor. Angeles and Pangilinan served from 1947 to 1951.

Pangilinan returned to his marketing business until his death on January 21, 1974.

PASCUAL, Efren B.

EFREN BALTAZAR PASCUAL (1928-2002) was the 24th governor of Bataan. He served from January 1972 to March 1986, a total of 15 years.

Atty. Pascual was born in Orani on June 7, 1930. His parents were Dr. Francisco Pascual Sr. and Francisca Baltazar, a native of Orion and one of the granddaughters of Francisco Baltazar and Juana Tiambeng. He finished his Law degree from the University of the Philippines and became a full-fledged lawyer on March 2, 1956.

Three years later, he ran for mayor of Orani and won over incumbent Mayor Lorenzo Bongco. As mayor, he initiated the formal creation of Parang-parang, Wawa, Pantalang Luma, Pantalang Bago, Tenejero, Centro Uno, Centro Dos, Palihan, Carbonero-Paking, Calero, Balut, Masanto1, Sikalis, Bayan, Talimundoc, Talatapulao, Kaparangan and Mulawin as regular barangays of Orani. He was the first mayor in Bataan to direct a stage play in his town while serving as municipal executive. He was re-elected in 1963 together with Godofredo dela Peña, the vice-mayor.

He ran for vice-governor and runningmate of Governor Pedro Dizon during the November 1967 local elections. He won but Dizon lost to former Vice-Governor Guillermo Arcenas of Hermosa. As expected, Arcenas and Pascual met head-on during the November 1971 polls. In the final tally of votes, it was Pascual who won by a big margin over Arcenas. Atty. Rufino F. Navarro of Samal became the new vice governor. Pascual retained his position.
….during the Martial Law period and continued to serve Bataan until 1980. Atty. Navarro challenged his leadership during the 1980 local elections but it was unsuccessful. Pascual’s term ended abruptly in March 1986 as a result of the EDSA Revolution. He was replaced by an OIC-Governor, Leonardo B. Roman.

During his incumbency as governor, Pascual was able to complete major projects through the Economic Support Fund. These projects include the new Bataan National High School, Capitol extension building, major roads and bridges. It was also during his administration that the Roman Expressway, Dambana ng Kagitingan, Philippine Refugee Processing Center and the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant were completed.

Pascual passed away on February 25, 2000.

GABRIEL RODRIGUEZ PASCUAL was a successful Manila-based businessman who aspired to serve Bataan as a congressman in 1956. Unfortunately, he was not as lucky as his townmate Dominador Naval Venegas who, in 1992, was elected as Bataan’s congressman.

Gabriel, popularly known as Aben and a native of Barangay Lati, amassed enormous wealth a few years after establishing his own trading company called the Manila Diesel Parts and Supply. The company was involved in supplying light and heavy equipment and parts needed by the shipping industry.

To show his deep love and concern for his home province (Bataan), he began paying his income tax returns in Orion, starting 1950. As a result, other local government officials started communicating with him, requesting him to pay his taxes in their municipality. In addition to Pascual, other successful Bataan businessmen doing business in Manila, the likes of Don Pablo Roman and Venegas, also received similar requests. Townmates flocked to see him in his resthouse in Wakas now part of Daan Bilolo every time he came home.

In addition to the usual tax payments, Pascual also donated P15,000 to Orion Municipal Council. The amount was used in the construction of the new municipal building in 1954. It was completed that same year.

A similar donation was made by Pascual to Samal. The municipality also received P15,000 which was used for the construction of their own municipal building.

Incumbent Congressman Jose R. Nuguid, however, made an issue out of it. He even dared Pascual and other Manila-based businessmen to run against him in the next congressional race if their intention was really to help and serve Bataan. Pascual took the challenge and launched his political campaign in mid-1956.

The political tussle between Nuguid and Pascual was considered as one of the most expensive local elections ever held in Bataan. In the end, Nuguid won at the polls. After the defeat, Pascual permanently concentrated on his business ventures.
The Philippine National Police in Orion has 18 police officers in active duty and one civilian employee based within the Municipal Hall. They have two mobile jeeps and two motorcycles used for patrolling activities. A base radio is also available at the station.

As compared to the standard ratio of 1 police officer per 1,000 residents, the existing ratio of 1,244 in the municipality, indicates that the town has an inadequate number of policemen.

The barangay tanods, numbering about 240, fills up the police insufficiency.

There is a need of a private security agency in the municipality to cater to the security needs of the numerous commercial establishments and other private enterprises in the area.

Fire protection services in Orion are being taken cared of by seven regular firemen and two volunteers. The fire personnel are presently stationed at St. Michael Village, Balagtas, Orion. The fire fighting unit has two firetrucks for use in their operations.

## Population

The population of Orion has grown tremendously since the first recorded population count in 1751 with a total of 1,083 inhabitants. Since then, several censuses were conducted by the then National Census and Statistics Office (now National Statistics Office) by virtue of Batas Pambansa Blg. 72 authorizing the said office to conduct population census every ten years beginning 1980 followed by the population count in 1990.

The projected population of Orion for the year 2000 is 44,067.

The graph below represents the computed population projections. The population rises gradually and doubles itself, by the year 2030.
PRESIDENTE ACTUAL was the formal title of the municipal mayor starting in 1901. It replaced the old name kapitan municipal as mandated on a Presidential Decree issued by General Emilio Aguinaldo on June 18, 1898. It was the time when local government units were re-organized in the provinces already freed from Spanish control.

Bataan, which was freed in May 1898, followed Aguinaldo’s directives but elected officials continued to use the title kapitan municipal until the early part of 1901.

Aguinaldo’s decree also mandated that all town chiefs and three delegates (councilors) were to be elected directly by the people. The Presidente Actual headed the four-man municipal assembly.

The elected councilors were given specific portfolios to handle: (1) police and internal order; (2) justice and civil registry; and (3) taxes and property.

In addition to the four elected officials, the municipal assembly was also composed of the Vice-Presidente Actual or vice-mayor. The elected cabeza de barangay of the poblacion or town proper automatically became the vice mayor.

The councilor assigned to be the delegate for justice and civil registry also acted as municipal secretary.

Starting in 1901, the title Presidente Actual was used by 13 individuals who administered the affairs of Orion until 1934. Vicente Rodriguez was Orion’s first Presidente Actual. Jose Baltazar (1931-1934) was the last Presidente Actual.

As mandated in the 1935 Constitution, Presidente Actual was replaced by the titles Municipal President and Mayor. Valeriano Soriano, the succeeding mayor from 1934 to 1937, was the first to use the title mayor.
PUTING BUHANGIN is the southernmost barangay of Orion. It shares boundary with Limay town. It is bounded on the north by Barangay Sta. Elena, on the east by Manila Bay, and on the west by Mariveles Mountain.

The barangay has a total land area of 319.69 hectares and inhabited by 2,217 people. Puting Buhangin was originally known as Barrio Pulong Bato. However, the name was changed to Barrio Puting Buhangin on November 18, 1949. Although it has been in existence as a barrio even before the advent of World War II, it was only recognized as a regular barangay on March 23, 1964, together with Calungusan.

The former sleepy coastal barangay of Puting Buhangin became one of the most popular barangays in Bataan after President Ferdinand Marcos ordered the construction of the Port General Tomas Capinpin in the area in March 1967. The seaport was used as the docking and loading area of the Manila-Bataan Hydrofoil Ferry Service which actually started its operation in 1964. The port expanded through the years. In the late 1990s, a P300 million Ro-Ro facility was constructed at Port Capinpin. It was inaugurated in 2003.

In addition to the hydrofoil service, Puting Buhangin also became a tourist spot after the Pulong Bato Beach Resort opened in 1966.

The hydrofoil company has been replaced by another ferry service, called the Mount Samat Ferry which is a 180-capacity passenger vessel. It provides six trips daily to Manila and back. It provides 6 daily trips to and from Manila.

From left to right, entrance to Orion port; barangay chapel
PUTING BUHANGIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL opened as a primary school in 1958. Combination classes for Grades I and II were held initially inside the barangay chapel. Children who wanted to finish Grades III and IV had to walk to Daan Pare or enroll at the Orion Elementary School to complete their elementary education.

In 1965, former Mayor Ricardo T. Angeles ordered the construction of the initial two-classroom building on its present site after the Dy Jongco family of Puting Buhangin donated a lot for school use. Grades I-II held classes in the morning while grades III-IV had them in the afternoon due to lack of classrooms. The pioneer teachers were Teresita de Guzman, Gavina Clavel, Emma Rodriguez, Belen Buenaventura, Francisca Perona, Juliesta Mariano, Peregrina Gacutan. When it was transformed into a complete elementary school in 1970’s, Mrs. Marina B. Santos became its first principal.

Former Mayor Gabriel L. Manrique took advantage of the Japan-Philippines Reparation Program during the Marcos administration (1965-1972) and brought home several Marcos Type Pre-fabricated school buildings. These were distributed in different barangays in Orion. Puting Buhangin received six new classrooms.

For the School Year 2006-2007, the school has nine regular teachers attending to the needs of 350 pupils. Mrs. Veronica Cruz is the current school principal.
Quezon Highway

QUEZON HIGHWAY was the old name given to the Bataan National Road, the major highway traversing from San Jose (Dinalupihan) to Lamao (Limay). It was named after Manuel L. Quezon who spent some time in Bataan as a revolutionary officer before he became the first President of the Philippine Commonwealth (1935-1944).

The Bataan Provincial Council approved the said name through a resolution passed in August 1950.

Based on records of the Bureau of Public Highways, however, the original name of the highway was Route 304. The two-lane, 44-kilometer long highway actually started from San Jose, Dinalupihan (not Layac) and ended up in Lamao, Limay. When the Lamao-Mariveles Road was completed in 1947, it automatically became part of Route 304. Before the road was completed, residents of Limay used the sea route (Manila Bay) to get to Mariveles and vice versa.

The common belief that the Bataan National Road was part of the MacArthur Highway was inaccurate. MacArthur Highway, also known as Route 3, only covered the long stretch from Caloocan City (starting at the north end of Highway 54, now EDSA) down to San Fernando, Pampanga, passing through Bulacan. The expanse from Pampanga to Layac, Dinalupihan and onward to Olongapo City, on the other hand, was called Route 7.

The name MacArthur Highway was only used during the Japanese Occupation (1941-1942) to aid the Filipino and American soldiers in finding their way to Bataan. Routes 3, 7 and 304 were combined together and temporarily called MacArthur Highway starting in December 1941.

QUICHO, Gregorio R.

GREGORIO DEL ROSARIO QUICHO (1885-1975) was the 11th governor of Bataan. He served for two consecutive terms, from 1926-1929 to 1929-1931. He is acknowledged as the first and only native of Orion to become governor of Bataan since 1901.

Governor Quicho was born in Lati, Orion on December 15, 1885. His parents were Marcelo Quicho and Joaquina del Rosario. He studied Law at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran. He and classmate Claro M. Recto took the Bar examinations together but both failed in their attempts to become full-fledged lawyers.

Recto took another examination the following year and topped the Bar. Quicho, in the other hand, failed to take the Bar for he was already employed as provincial sheriff in Palawan.

In 1925, he was persuaded to run for governor of Bataan by Congressman Antonio G. Llamas, another classmate at Letran. At that time, Llamas was seeking re-election against Don Manuel Banzon Sr. of Balanga. Quicho won over incumbent Governor Manuel Aguinaldo of Pilar. Llamas, however, lost to Banzon.
As governor, Quicho fought for the retention of Cubi Point as part of Bataan even after it was utilized as a military seaport of the United States Navy. The area represents 80 percent of the present Subic Freeport. Had he allowed it, Cubi Point would have automatically been merged to Zambales or Olongapo City. For this stand, he was easily re-elected governor in 1929. It was also during his term that the farmers of Dinalupihan held violent protests against the Pampanga Sugar Mill. The mill owners wanted to lay down railroad tracks over the lands owned by small inquilinos in the Tucop and Pagalanggang area to enable them to bring the harvested sugar cane to their mill in Floridablanca. The governor was able to prevent further violence in the area.

His third attempt in politics was not successful. He lost to Sabino de Leon of Pilar, a former chief of police of Quezon City and a protegee of Don Manuel Banzon Sr. After the defeat, Quicho returned to Palawan where he and his family settled permanently. He continued working as provincial sheriff. He died in Puerto Princesa on September 9, 1975 at age 90.

QUICHO, Jose B.

DR. JOSE BERNARDO QUICHO (1914 -1978) was the first dentist to be elected as vice mayor of Orion. He served from 1959 to 1963, during the last term of Mayor Manuel R. Santos Sr.

Dr. Quicho was born in Wawa, Orion on March 14, 1914. He was the eldest child of former Bataan Governor Gregorio R. Quicho (1926-1929, 1929-1931) and Margarita Bernardo of Marikina, Rizal. He finished his Dentistry course from the Manila Central University in 1941 and immediately put up a private clinic in Orion.

During the 1955 local elections, re-electionist Mayor Manuel R. Santos Sr. persuaded Dr. Quicho to join his political team as a councilor candidate. The dentist easily made it to the winners’ list but Mayor Santos lost to Alberto Cristobal of Daan Bago.

After four years, Santos launched another political campaign for the mayoralty post. He chose Dr. Quicho to be his running-mate because of the latter’s good performance as a councilor. The poll results favored the Santos-Quicho team against the Alberto Cristobal-Celerino Reyes tandem. Incumbent Vice Mayor Andres Buenaventura did not seek re-election and ultimately was picked out by Mayor Santos as council secretary from 1959-1963.

During his term, Dr. Quicho donated the 1,893 square meter lot used as site of the Gen. Lim Elementary School. He returned to his private practice when his term ended in 1963. He passed away on Sept. 7, 1978.

Dr. Quicho was married to Resurreccion Pereyra with whom he had eight children: Antonio, Antero (Terry), Efren, Josefino, Margarita (Waje), Carol, Marcelo and Joselito.
QUICHO, Quirino


Quicho was a resident of Daan Bilolo. He worked as farmer during his teen years and was not able to finish high school. He was married to Cresencia Pangilinan, a meat vendor. Their children were Liwayway, Mariquita, Lamberto, Quirino Jr., Ursulo and Teresita.

He was an appointed town councilor of Orion during the war years (1942-1945), together with Mayor Arsenio Joco. He was chosen to be the acting vice-mayor of Orion by the appointed mayor, Atty. Emiliano Navarro, when local government units were re-established after the Liberation. Their one-year term was spent entirely in administering relief goods coming from the Philippine Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

They were relieved of their duties in July 1946 and replaced by new appointees, Agustin L. Angeles and Pedro Pangilinan, on orders of Governor Joaquin J. Linao.

Quicho returned to the political arena in 1947. He won as councilor, together with Mayor Agustin L. Angeles. In 1951, he ran for vice mayor together with Manuel R. Santos Sr. and both of them won. His re-election bid in 1955 was not successful. He lost to Andres Buenaventura, runningmate of Alberto Cristobal. He died on March 8, 1988.

RAYMUNDO, Antonio J.

ANTONIO JUANILLO RAYMUNDO (1923-____) is the father of Orion current mayor, Antonio L. Raymundo Jr. In 1986, he served as municipal councilor of Orion after declining the position of OIC vice mayor in place of his son, Antonio Jr. who was chosen to take the place of incumbent Dr. Antonio H. Mariano. Antonio Jr., at the time of his appointment was employed in Japan.

Antonio Jr., born on March 19, 1923, worked as a radio operator technician in Manila before getting involved in big-time fishing, farming and piggery industry in Orion. He was never involved in politics until he was asked to replace his son who was designated OIC-vice mayor of Orion in 1986. He declined the position and offered it to Quirino Quicho. Thereafter, he chose to serve as municipal councilor instead from 1986 to 1988. He ran for the same position in 1988 and won. He served until 1992.

Raymundo is married to Belen Lazaro with whom he has nine children: Tomas, Dulce, Eugenia, Dionisio, Antonio Jr., Carmen, Lilibeth, Danilo and Catherine.
ANTONIO LAZARO RAYMUNDO JR. (1956--) is the current mayor of Orion (2004 to present). He was first elected to the same position in 2001. He is the 29th municipal mayor since 1901. Prior to this, he also served as vice mayor of Orion from 1995 to 1998.

Mayor Raymundo is a native of Wawa, Orion. He was born on August 8, 1956 to parents Antonio J. Raymundo Sr. and Belen Alarcon Lazaro. He finished his elementary education at Orion Elementary School (1968) and his secondary education at Jose Rizal Institute-Orion (1972). He was a product of the former Bataan National School of Arts and Trades in Balanga City where he finished a vocational course in Machine Shop Technology.

Armed with the basic knowledge, Raymundo was employed at DND Arsenal in Lamao, Limay but it was only a short stint at the country’s premier ammunition manufacturing plant. In less than a year, he resigned from his job and managed the family’s fishing business (basnig). In time, he earned recognition as a successful basnig operator and one of the prime movers of the so-called “Bloke ng Tabing-ilog.”

After the fall of the Marcos regime, Raymundo’s name was immediately included in the list of prospective individuals who will replace the incumbent local government officials of Orion. He was already in Japan in 1986, working as a CNC machine shop operator, when his appointment was approved by President Corazon Aquino. In his absence, it was his father Antonio J. Raymundo Sr. who served as OIC-Councilor of Orion although his initial appointment was as OIC-vice mayor.

Raymundo was still working in Japan when the holding of the 1988 local elections was announced. Although he and Manuel C. Santos Jr. have already agreed to run as runningmates against expected rival, former Mayor Gabriel L. Manrique (who incidentally died on September 5, 1986), Santos was left with no choice but choose another runningmate. Santos won at the polls but it was Teodoro T. Catalan, runningmate of Dr. Antonio Mariano, who triumphed as vice mayor.

During the 1995 elections, it was Raymundo’s father who ran for the vice mayorality position together with re-electionist Mayor Manuel C. Santos Jr. Both of them (Santos and Raymundo)...
RAYMUNDO, ANTONIO Jr. L.

The new road connecting the barangay to a housing project in upland Bilolo

Antonio L. Raymundo Jr. Accomplishments

- Steel gate of Orion market
- Repair of municipal hall
- Camachile open canal
- Arellano steel gratings
- Wawa street light
- Fencing of Bilolo basketball court
- Shallow well, Bantan
- Steel gratings of San Vicente
- Open Canal in Sta. Elena
- Open canal in Lasuangian
- Open Canal in Puting Buhangin
- Perimeter fence, Bangtas
- Steel gratings, Bagumbayan
- SB hall improvement
- Open canal in Capunitan
- Shallow well, Dean Park
- Open canal w/ culvert, Gen. Lin
- Open canal w/ gratings, Bantan
- Deep well, Upper Bantan
- Concreting, Capunitan bridge
- Breakwater repair/Relief, San Vicente
- Open Canal, Dean Park 2005
- Irrigation canal, Dean Park
- FMR, Sabatan
- Barangay hall annex, Lat.
- Repair of barangay roads
- Purchase of drugs for indigents
- Deep well, Dean Park, Bilito
- Shallow well in barangays
- Repair, municipal building
- Drug abuse prevention
- Palarong Pambayan
- Setup of national markers
- Financial support to MAFC
- Plant nursery financial support
- Fisheries development support
- Support to cooperatives
- Repair, Treasurer’s Office
- Construction of municipal building extension

...lost to the tandem of Dr. Antonio Mariano and Erlinda Guzman.

Raymundo’s formal entry into the political scene came in 1995. He ran for vice mayor, together with Manuel Santos Jr. Both of them won and served until 1998. Santos and Raymundo parted ways sometime during their term. And as expected, the former partymates met head-on during the 1998 local elections. After the counting of votes, it was Santos who emerged as winner over Raymundo.

The political rivalry continued as Santos and Raymundo squared off for the second time during the 2001 elections. Despite the political machineries available to Mayor Santos, Raymundo scored a win by a margin of 1,237 votes.

Raymundo’s initial three-year term as mayor, however, was marked with challenges. For one, the municipal council was led by Dr. Rolando Banzon, partymate of Santos. Raymundo had difficult times having his programs approved or given appropriate funds by the Sangguniang Bayan.

The biggest test to Raymundo’s leadership came on May 7, 2003, exactly three days before the celebration of the annual Orion fiesta. Raymundo was most surprised to receive a 60-day suspension order signed by former Governor Leonardo B. Roman after it was approved by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan. The order stemmed from complaints against Raymundo involving alleged abuse of authority as mayor of Orion.

Knowing that the suspension was politically motivated and purely an attempt by his political enemies to render him powerless during his term, Raymundo stood his ground and defied the order. Supporters came to his rescue and protested against the suspension. They even blockaded the municipal building to keep him in his post. The order was never implemented and Raymundo remained in office until his term ended in 2004.

Former Mayor Santos attempted another comeback in 2004. Mayor Raymundo was prepared for their third encounter. The result was overwhelming. Raymundo received a total of 12,992 votes as against Santos’ 11,251.
For the past five years since 2001, people see Mayor Raymundo as a hardworking and dedicated leader who endeared himself to the hearts of the residents through sincere and genuine service to his constituents.

The mayor is involved in the realization of the P35 million Diosdado Macapagal Cruise Terminal in Puting Buhangin, Orion, a project of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

**RAYMUNDO, ANTONIO Jr. L.**

Sta. Elena barangay hall

Left photo: concreting of road in Site, Bilolo being implemented by Mayor Raymundo Jr.

Fountain-project of the Municipal Tourism Council

**LILIA RASCO-RAYMUNDO** is the hardworking and dedicated better half of incumbent Orion Mayor Antonio L. Raymundo Jr. She has been behind the success of her spouse since 2001.

Mrs. Raymundo was born on July 27, 1959 in Labo, Camarines Norte. Her parents were Jose Rasco and Eulalia Bayani. She completed a Secretarial Course from the Mabini Colleges in Daet, Camarines Norte and was on her third year in Commerce when she met and finally became the spouse of Mayor Raymundo who at that time was a simple basniq operator. The Raymundo couple has three children: Mervin Paulo (computer engineer); Antonio III (aviation graduate); and Marygrace (nursing student).

Lilia has launched several medical and dental missions in various parts of the town. She spearheaded the Clean and Green programs and various tourism projects in Orion. Her annual “Lakambini ng Udyong” project which was launched in 2001 continues to provide funds for her other worthwhile projects in Orion. Through the Lakambini project, Mrs. Raymundo was able to procure an ambulance which continues to help many local residents. Her latest project is the beautification of Orion town plaza.
KERBY RAYMUNDO (1980– ) is Orion’s major contribution to the world of sports. He is currently one of the stalwarts in the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA).

Raymundo, standing 6 feet and 6 inches tall and weighing 215 pounds, is the son of Roberto Raymundo (of Mindoro) and Dolores Raymundo of Camachile, Orion. He was born on January 20, 1980 and graduated from the Orion Elementary School and Jose Rizal Institute-Orion for his secondary education. He started carving a name in basketball when he played for Bataan during the 1997 Central Luzon Regional Athletic Association (CLRAA) regional sports tournament. The Bataan team eventually emerged as the basketball champion that year.

He immediately played for San Juan de Letran College in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) during his first year. He was unanimously picked as the “rookie of the year” because of his outstanding performance in court. Letran won two NCAA championship seasons while Raymundo was playing for the team.

Raymundo also became a member of the national team which saw action in the 20th Southeast Asian Games in Brunei. In 1999, he garnered the “Most Valuable Player” award in the NCAA senior division and was picked as member of the “Mythical Five” in addition to giving Letran the NCAA basketball crown that year.

Raymundo joined the PBA in 2002. In his initial year as a professional basketball player, he piloted the Red Bulls to the 2002 basketball championship. He was chosen as the MVP Finals 2002 and member of the Mythical Five.

In 2004, Kerby started wearing jersey No. 21 of the Purefoods Chunkie Giants which also won the PBA championship that year. The Chunkies again emerged as champion team in 2006 against the Red Bulls. He was picked out as the Final Game’s outstanding player and is a member of RP team that will represent the country in international competitions.
RIVERS

RIVERA, Agapito

Agapito Rivera of San Vicente, was the 15th mayor of Orion (1937-1940). He defeated Mayor Valeriano “American Boy” Soriano in the 1937 poll. “Mang Pito” as he was known and his vice-mayor Estanislao Cuevas sought re-election in 1941. Rivera lost his bid to Arsenio Joco but Cuevas retained his post.

Mayor Rivera and his wife Eusebia Angeles had seven offsprings, Fidela (nurse), Cresencia (ETC-teacher, married Juan Tiambeng-son of Mayor Aproniano Tiambeng), Consuelo, Florencio (Chief of Police), Vicente (military man), Venerando and clarita. He died in his 80’s.

Rivers

There are four major rivers in Orion: Pita River, San Vicente River, Lucong River and Pandam River. All these rivers well from the Mariveles Mountain Watershed, run through the length and width of Orion and end up in Manila Bay. These rivers also branch out to smaller creeks which supply the agricultural water needs of the municipality.

The Pita River originates from the southern slope of Mount Samat before it merges near the General Lim (Kaput) area with a minor tributary coming from the Catmon area. The merged river runs southward and then joins the San Vicente River in the vicinity of Daan Bilolo. From Daan Bilolo, the river drains into Manila Bay.

The San Vicente River also originates from the slopes of Mariveles Mountain. It runs through Barangay Bilolo before merging with Pita River.

The Lucong River wells from the headwater source of Mariveles Mountain and runs through Barangays Sabatan, Wakas and Capunitan before draining into Manila Bay.

The Pandam River is the fourth major river in Orion. It runs through Daan Pare and Wakas on its way to Manila Bay.
As of 2004, Orion has a total road length of 69.837 kilometers of which 13.650 kilometers are national road; 17.449 kilometers are provincial road; 31.248 kilometers are municipal roads; 2.071 kilometers are barangay roads; 4.459 kilometers are subdivision roads and .96 kilometer are port roads.

Of the total length, about 73.29 percent are concreted while 3.88 percent are asphalted and the remaining 22.83 percent are graveled or unpaved roads.

The two arterial roads traversing Orion are the Roman Expressway and the Bataan National Road.

Meanwhile, there are 10 road bridges that connect barangays and sitios of Orion. Bantam Bridge, Calungusan Bridge, Sto. Domingo Bridge, Baña Bridge, Orion Bridge (Tulay Bato), Capunitan Bridge, Pandam Bridge, San Vicente Bridge, Capot Bridge and Pandam Bridge. Eight of these bridges are made of reinforced concrete while two are concrete-piped. These bridges have a total span of 161.50 meters, all classified as national bridges. All of these bridges are in good condition and passable for all types of vehicles.

Eight footbridges are situated in some barangays. These are made of reinforced concrete. Some of them need repair and rehabilitation since these are already worn-out after years of use.
SIMEON P. RODRIGUEZ (1877-1949) was the third and ninth mayor of Orion. He served from 1905-1907, 1907-1909, 1919-1921. His third term, from 1919 to 1921, was merely coincidental after he was appointed as mayor of Orion and Pilar which were merged into one town during the period. Late in his political career, he was also elected vice mayor of Orion from 1928-1931.

Rodriguez was born in Bantan Grande, Orion, in 1877. Some relatives, however, claimed that he was born in the former Poblacion. He was the son of an unnamed Spanish gentleman and a Filipina from Orion. He had very little education even though his parents were considered rich landowners in Orion. At the start of the American colonization of the Philippines, Rodriguez joined the Philippine Revolution against the Americans. He was a second lieutenant during the Filipino-American hostilities. Exactly a year after the capture of General Emilio Aguinaldo in Palanan, Isabela on March 23, 1901, Rodriguez surrendered to Governor John Gouldman and took his oath of allegiance to the United States.

He ran for vice mayor of Orion in 1903 after Governor John Gouldman announced the holding of the first local elections early that year. He and majority candidate Luis Baltazar won the election by acclamation.

He finally ran for the top municipal position of Orion in 1905. It was an easy victory for Rodriguez as Luis Baltazar, the incumbent mayor, gave way and did not seek re-election. His runningmate, Francisco Urquiza also won as vice mayor. Both of them were re-elected in 1907.

After transferring his residence from Bantan to Wakas (Pilar), Rodriguez supported the successful candidacy of Mariano Angeles in 1909.

In 1919, Rodriguez made history when he served as municipal mayor of Orion and Pilar at the same time. It was the year when the two towns were placed under military control as ordered by acting Governor Pedro Rich. It resulted from the tragic death of former Governor Conrado Lerma of Pilar who was shot to death inside the Capitol building by Jose Baluyut of Orion. To prevent bloodshed from the warring residents of the two towns, Governor Rich appointed former Orion Mayor Rodriguez as mayor of the two towns. Rodriguez replaced Pilar Mayor Leandro Aguinaldo and Orion Mayor Aproniano Tiambeng. Rodriguez ruled over the two towns for more than two years (1919-1921). With the help of the military, Rodriguez was able to pacify the residents of the two towns while the Lerma-Baluyut murder case was being heard in court.

In 1928, Rodriguez was persuaded to run for vice mayor of Orion together with re-electionist Mayor Manuel R. Santos. Both of them won.

As mayor of Pilar, Rodriguez was credited for establishing the first classrooms of the public primary school in Pilar, known today as Pilar Elementary School.

He also donated a piece of land in Barangay Bagumbayan which was converted into a municipal burial ground, now known as the Pilar Public Cemetery where his remains were laid to rest on April 9, 1949.
The ROMAN EXPRESSWAY is one of the two major roads traversing the length of Bataan. It was built as a major transport facility for the first free trade zone in the country, the Bataan Export Processing Zone (BEPZ) in Mariveles town. It is a 48-kilometer long highway starting from Culis, Hermosa to Alasasin, Mariveles, just before reaching the Mariveles zigzag area.

The first class highway has a width of 30 meters although some portions measured up to 60 meters maximum. “Phase One” of the total project started from Hermosa and ended in Alauli Junction in Pilar. It measured 24 kilometers, and include 14 steel and concrete bridges. “Phase Two” also measured 24 kilometers but with only 12 bridges. Its construction started on April 7, 1973, well within the Martial Law period. It was completed on July 16, 1977.

Two well-known construction companies completed the said project: Construction Development Corporation of the Philippines (CDCP) owned by Rodolfo Cuenca, a Marcos crony; and Monark International, owned by a Bataan native, Onofre Banzon.

CDCP accomplished its task in three years and three months. Phase Two was completed in two years and 11 months.

The Department of Public Highways-Manila designed and supervised the construction of the P164 million project. Phase One costs P86 million, while P78 million was spent for Phase Two.

The total amount includes the payment for the right-of-way of former agricultural lands utilized for the project. But some Monark officials said some of the farmlots were donated by the owners.

The major thoroughfare was named Roman Expressway in honor of Don Pablo Roman, former congressman of Bataan. He is considered the father of the export processing zone in Mariveles which is presently known as the Bataan Economic Zone. Rehabilitation of the said highway is a continuing program specially after being used by motorists for nearly 30 years.

Incidentally, about six kilometers of the expressway pass through Orion. See also QUEZON HIGHWAY.
Sabatan, originally called Bilolo Dos, is bounded in the north and west by Bilolo, in the south by Daan Pare, and in the east by Wakas. Lower Sabatan is the area situated on the eastern side of the Roman Expressway.

The barangay is partly an upland community. It is accessible via the Daan Bilolo Road (Gabby Manrique Street) and the Roman Expressway. The barangay has a total land area of 343.76 hectares. The original barangay was the so-called Looban Sabatan. It is said that the name was derived from the word sabatan, which meant “place of encounter.” Records have it that rebel leader Victor Baltazar used the place as an alternative ambush area against Spanish troops returning from Limay in May 1898. The successful ambush led to the liberation of Orion from Spanish domination. An area in Lower Sabatan was used as the burial ground of the unknown rebel-veterans of Orion who died during the encounter. It was called Villa Panteon.

As of 2006, the barangay has a population of 2,537 people.
SABATAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Former School Administrators:

Andres Simon
Adoracion Quicho
Carolina Baluyot
Josephina Merquiado 1981-1993
Ms. Fe Angeles 1993-1996
Arsenia Bundalian 1996-1998
Teresita Ordiales 1998-2000
Gilda Tiglan 2000-2001
Arsenia Bundalian 2002-2003
ROSARIO REDULLA (present)

The teaching force of Sabatan led by Rosario Redulla, principal

Sabatan’s Teaching Staff

Marj Bautista
Acelyn Aparilla
Sherly Esteban
Lolita Antonio
Nancy Yarra
Richelle Perez
Malou Enriquez
Grace dela Peña
Rosa Calderon
Eloisa Cuevas
Evelyn Manalo
Ric La Torre
Erlinda Santos
Ignalyn Sabino

In 1950s, Looban Sabatan (the original Sabatan) was part of Bilolo. It was also called Villa Panteon since the major portion of the populated area was part of the cemetery.

It was only in 1968 that Sabatan residents saw the need for a public school in their area to take care of the educational needs of the growing population of children. But the actual realization of such dream took some time.

SABATAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL was only established in 1980, just in front of the Veterans Cemetery. It opened as a primary learning center offering classes from Grades I to Grade III. The combined classes were placed under the guidance of the two original teachers, Angelina A. Pantig and Belen D. de Leon.

It was former Mayor Gabriel L. Manrique who started and completed the barangay school during the School Year 1981-1982.

The present school consists of 12 classrooms. Rosario G. Redulla is the school principal. She is being assisted by 12 teachers and two non-teaching staff.

For the School Year 2005-2006, the school had a population of 502 pupils. Ten years earlier (1995-1996), the enrollment was pegged at 311.
SAN VICENTE is the seat of the municipal government of Orion. The barangay derived its name from San Vicente Ferrer, one of the prominent patron saints belonging to the Dominican Order.

The barangay, acknowledged as the center of the old Poblacion, was founded sometime in 1667, the year when Orion was established as a regular town. The present San Vicente was not the center of Orion during the early times. In 1667, the first chapel of St. Michael Archangel was erected in the old Tutuban area, near the Sto. Domingo River. It was only after the death of Fr. Domingo Perez, the first parish priest of Orion, that a new church made of bricks was constructed at its present site.

San Vicente became a legal barangay (barrio) in 1928 through the initiative of former Governor Gregorio R. Quicho (1926-1929, 1929-1931), a native of Orion. In addition to San Vicente, the old Poblacion was divided further into several other barangays such as Arellano, Bagumbayan and Balut.

The barangay is bounded on the north by Balagtas, on the south by San Vicente River and Daan Bilolo, on the east by Balagtas and Arellano and on the west by Bilolo. It has a land area measuring 76.94 hectares. Based on 2006 Census, San Vicente is populated by 1,277 residents.

In addition to the Orion Municipal Hall, San Vicente also plays host to the St. Michael The Archangel Parish, the St. Michael The Archangel Academy, the Roman Catholic Cemetery and the Jose Rizal Institute-Orion.

Manuel Santos Jr. is a resident of Barangay Arellano, Orion. He was born on February 4, 1936 to parents Manuel Rivera Santos and Maria Paz Calimbas. He is an alumnus of Orion Elementary School and Jose Rizal Institute-Orion. He finished his Associate in Arts degree in 1957 from the University of the Santo Tomas and his Bachelor of Laws degree in 1978 from the Far Eastern University.

He was employed at the Philippine National Bank in Manila and later in Balanga where he was the auditor from 1968 to 1979. He was the manager of Village Savings Bank from 1980 to 1987.

His initial entry into the political scene was in 1980 when he ran and won as provincial board member of Bataan. He served until 1986, or immediately after the EDSA Revolution. Mayor Santos won as town mayor in 1988 against former OIC-Mayor Alfredo Pangilinan and Dr. Antonio Mariano (1986-1987). By winning, he became the second son of a former mayor to be elected to the same position since 1901.

As mayor, he was credited for the establishment of the new Orion Public Market, the asphalting of the Sto. Domingo Access Road (known as Manuel Santos Sr. Road), the construction of Orion fishport, the reconstruction of the Orion municipal hall (through the support of Secretary Fulgencio Factoran and Governor Leonardo B. Roman), and the creation of Barangay Santa Elena.

His re-election bid in 1992 was unsuccessful. He lost to Dr. Antonio H. Mariano who had served Orion as vice mayor from 1972-1976, 1976-1980, and 1980-1986.

Despite the loss, Mayor Santos returned to the political arena in 1995 and won against Dr. Antonio H. Mariano. In 1998, he ran a successful campaign against his former vice mayor, Antonio L. Raymundo Jr. In 2001 and 2004, he lost to Mayor Raymundo who is the current mayor of Orion.
MANUEL RIVERA SANTOS (1900-1973) was the 12th, 19th and 21st mayor of Orion. He served from 1925-1927, 1927-1929, 1929-1931, 1951-1955 and 1959-1963 for a total of 15 years, more or less.

He was a native of Barangay Arellano and was born in 1900. He married Maria Paz Calimbas of Barangay San Vicente. The couple had 10 children: Isabel, Loreto, Jose, Rosita, Francisco, Ricardo, Luz, Manuel Jr., Aida and Jaime.

There is no available data on the educational attainment and work experience of Mayor Santos but existing documents showed that his initial entry in politics was in 1925 when he ran for mayor and won against incumbent Mayor Fausto Paguio. He was re-elected in 1927 and 1929.

Mayor Santos made a successful comeback in 1951 against his former vice mayor and incumbent Mayor Agustin I. Angeles. His victory was attributed to his role in working for the release of a big number of Sto. Domingo residents who were arrested and allegedly tortured by soldiers of the Philippine Constabulary on suspicion of being involved in the Hukbalahap movement.

During his second term at the municipal hall, he was able to put up a new municipal building through the P15,000 cash donation of Manila Diesel Parts and Supply owner Gabriel Pascual, a native of Lati, Orion. He ran for congressman of Bataan in 1956 but it was unsuccessful. Mayor Santos also initiated the construction of the Orion Puericulture Center (1951), several farm-to-market roads, including the Sto. Domingo access road (which was named in his honor later on).

Mayor Santos lost at the polls in 1955 against Alberto Cristobal of Daan Bago who became the 20th mayor of Orion. For four years, Mayor Cristobal held office in newly-completed municipio built by Mayor Santos.

Mayor Santos, however, remained undaunted by the loss. He challenged Mayor Cristobal to a rematch in 1959. After the votes were tallied, Mayor Santos emerged as poll winner. He retired from active politics after his term ended in 1963. He passed away on October 3, 1973.
SCHOOLS

SCHOOLS are institutions, either public and private, which provide formal education to children and the youth sector, in general.

As of last count, there are 14 public and 5 private schools offering elementary education in the municipality. They are generally well-dispersed throughout the eastern side of Orion. The list of schools include:


Private – Gethsemane Ecumenical School, Orion Kiddie Learning Center, St. Michael The Archangel Academy, and School of the Madeleine.

For the School Year 2004-2005, the total elementary enrollment in Orion was 9,694. Orion Elementary School had the biggest enrollment with 1,579, followed by Capunitan ES with 769 pupils. There were 305 teachers in all the elementary schools in Orion.

On the secondary level, Orion has one public, one vocational and three private high schools, namely Orion National High School and the Bataan School of Fisheries. The three private high schools, are the Jose Rizal Institute (JRI-Orion) and the St. Michael Academy, a parochial school and School of the Madeleine. Enrollment in the secondary level for SY 2006-2007 is more or less 3,885 students whose educational needs were taken cared of by about 127 teachers.

The Bataan School of Fisheries, located in Barangay Daan Bago, offers only vocational tertiary courses. In addition, there is a sufficient number of tertiary and other vocational schools, about 18 public and private learning institutions, in the entire province of Bataan most of which are located in the City of Balanga.

In addition, Orion has 23 day care centers managed by 23 day care workers. Some of the workers are paid under the Development Fund of the local government, some by CIDSS/KALAHI, while others are sponsored by non-government organizations.

The King’s Garden Children Home in Sabatan, meanwhile, has a facility for the disadvantaged residents who account for about 0.51% of the population.
A senior citizen is one who reaches the age of 60. At present, about 20 percent of the total population of the Philippines belongs to the 60 years old and over age bracket. As elders, their number still makes them an integral part of the society.

The government, in order to maximize the contribution of senior citizens to nation-building, has come up with the Senior Citizens Act (RA 7432) and the Expanded Senior Citizens Act (RA 9257), two laws granting benefits and privileges to senior citizens.

The privileges include the granting of 20 percent discount from all establishments relative to the utilization of services in hotels and similar lodging establishments, restaurants and recreation centers, and purchase of medicines for the exclusive use or enjoyment of senior citizens, including funeral and burial services.

Theaters, concert halls, circuses and other similar places of culture, leisure and amusements are also mandated to give 20 percent discount on admission fees of senior citizens, as well as fares for domestic air and sea travel, land transportation including railways and skyways. Senior citizens also enjoy free medical and dental services in all government health facilities.

To fully enjoy these benefits and privileges, senior citizens are encouraged to organize themselves into active groups to show their full support to the government program. Thus, the Office of the Senior Citizen’s Affair was organized throughout the country.

In Orion, for instance, all barangays have organized their respective senior citizens organization since 1992. They have their own social hall or headquarters separate from the office of the barangay council. They regularly elect their own officials who develop and implement programs for the members.

Another similar organization is established in the municipal level. Thereafter, representatives from each municipality join the provincial organization where new set of officers are elected. These officers formulate new programs for their members. As of 2002, the provincial organization established its own drug store where affordable drugs are sold.

The officers of the Office of the Senior Citizens Affair-Orion include:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Office of the Senior Citizens Affair-Orion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OSCA Chairman</td>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
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<td>Vice President</td>
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<td>Board Members</td>
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**Office of the Senior Citizens Affair-Orion**

- **OSCA Chairman**: Renato G. Pangilinan
- **President**: Marino L. Padilla
- **Vice President**: Alfonso M. Gigante
- **Secretary**: Lorenzo Alarcon
- **Treasurer**: Adoracion Lacson
- **Auditor**: Arturo Cristani
- **PRO**: Pacifico Valenzuela
- **Board Members**: Lucy Santiago, Manuel Tolentino, Ricardo J. Santos

**Senior Citizens celebrate Linggo ng Nakatatanda once a year.**

**Elders, partners in nation-building**

**Office of the Senior Citizens Affair-Orion**

- **OSCA Chairman**: Renato G. Pangilinan

**Renato G. Pangilinan**

OSCA Chairman
VALERIANO SORIANO was elected and served as the 14th mayor of Orion from 1934 to 1937.

Mayor Soriano was born in Daan Bilolo. There is paucity on the details of Soriano’s personal life. Available records showed that he was more popularly known in Orion as “American Boy”. After spending a few years in the United States as a US Navyman he returned to Orion in the early 1930’s together with his Jewish wife named Rita.

Within a year of stay in Orion, he realized that he had the knowledge and experience on how to run the affairs of a small town effectively. He immediately launched his political campaign aimed at unseating the incumbent Mayor Jose Baltazar of San Vicente whom he claimed showed a lackluster performance as a town executive.

During the 1934 local elections, people were amazed by the political strategies employed by Mayor Soriano and his running-mate, vice mayoralty candidate Alejo Candido. Even former Mayor Manuel R. Santos Sr., Jose Baltazar’s patron and politically, expected a landslide victory for Soriano.

True enough, Soriano and his entire ticket won at the polls.

As mayor, Soriano immediately launched an American brand of beautification project in Orion, especially in the town center area. The municipal building was repaired and coated with glossy white paint. A bandstand (glorietta) was built in the town plaza and lighting posts were erected along the main road. The vicinity of Wawa and Lusungan were maintained clean and the coastline was designated as a tourist spot. Within a year, Orion became one of the tourism showcases in the province.

Despite all these achievements, political affiliation and the growing clamor for total independence from America dictated the outcome of the 1937 election. Re-electionist Mayor Soriano was defeated at the polls by newcomer Agapito Rivera of San Vicente.

Worst, Mayor Soriano fell victim to some unidentified gunmen who shot him dead in his residence in early 1950. Although he was believed to be a victim of the Hukbalahaps, one Ado Venegas was identified as the principal suspect, convicted and sent to jail.
Orion’s sports and recreational facilities are mostly limited to multipurpose courts (covered and open) and pockets of open areas. Almost all of the 23 barangays in town have basketball/volleyball courts where annual sports festivals are held. But San Vicente hosts the basketball sports festival held annually in Orion.

Barangays Balagtas, Calungusan, and Wawa are the three barangays which take pride in having their respective covered courts. Balagtas has a tennis court while Wawa has two public parks.

An inventory of the recreational facilities in the municipality shows nine private resorts (two in Bilolo, one in Sta. Elena, two in Puting Buhangin, one in Bantan and three in Sto. Domingo).

**St. Michael Hospital**

ST. MICHAEL HOSPITAL is a private hospital which takes care of ailing residents of Orion and adjacent towns. The two-storey building is located in Barangay Wakas, at the site of the former Orion public market.

It is owned by Dr. Angelito Baluyot Jr., son of Dr. Linda Baluyot, former municipal health officer of Pilar and the late Dr. Angelito Baluyot Sr. of Wakas.

The 22-bed hospital opened in 2003.
The SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL ACADEMY is the only parochial school operating in Orion. The school is owned by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Balanga, Inc. and administered by the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. It offers pre-elementary, elementary and high school education.

The academy was initially called the Holy Child Catholic School. It was founded by Fr. Wilfredo C. Paguio in 1982. It opened its nursery and kindergarten classes that same year. An elementary school opened in 1985 and had its first graduation rites in 1991.

High school classes were offered by the school in 1999. The first graduation of high school students was held in 2003.

For the School Year 2005-2006, the St. Michael The Archangel Academy registered a total of 335 students broken down as follows: Nursery, 15; Kindergarten, 16; Elementary, 141; and High School, 163.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Administrators</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sr. Regina Nicolas, OP</td>
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<tr>
<td>1984-1988</td>
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<tr>
<td>MRS. Pacita Bagtas</td>
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<tr>
<td>1985-1987</td>
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<td>Rosalina Paguio</td>
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<tr>
<td>1987-1992</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rowena Q. Santos</td>
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<tr>
<td>1992-2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sr. Ruth A. Santiago, SFIC</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000-2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sr. Judith Albialde, SFIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-present</td>
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</tbody>
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Academy’s elementary pupils

High School students of St. Michael’s Academy

The facade of St. Michael the Archangel Academy

Fr. Wilfredo Paguio, STD, JCD

Sr. Judith Albialde, SFIC
The ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL PARISH is the center of religious services and practices of the Roman Catholics in Orion. It is located in Barangay San Vicente, beside the Orion municipal building and town plaza.

It was Fr. Domingo Perez of Portugal who founded and developed Orion into a visita (barangay) of Abucay. As soon as the town’s population increased sufficiently, the religious authorities decided to separate it from Abucay and made it an independent vicariate (town). In 1667 Orion was placed under the patronage of St. Michael the Archangel.

It is said that the first wooden chapel and convent of the town was built along the Sto. Domingo River, in the area presently occupied by the Fred’s Mart. After the death of Fr. Perez, sometime in 1680, a solid edifice made primarily of red bricks was built on the present site of the church in Barangay San Vicente. The church had an initial measurement of 50 meters long and 25 meters wide, excluding the convent. The church underwent expansion and rehabilitation as years passed by.

Dr. Miguel Fuster was the first to teach church music in Orion. He also built the Daan Pare road leading to Limay.

The building, unfortunately, was damaged heavily by an earthquake in September 1852. The task of rebuilding the church was started by Frs. Ramon Rodriguez, Andres Chaveli and Pedro Rodriguez. Fr. Ramon was mainly responsible for the rebuilding of the convent with galvanized iron roofings. The church’s construction was continued by Fr. Jose Campomanes and Fr. Jose Auli. It was Fr. Campomanes who gathered the materials for the church while Fr. Auli finished the church which was crowned by a grand and magnificent tower.

Fr. Claro Arroyo was the one who built the cemetery with concrete fence at the back of the church.

A sacristy, which measured about 350 square meters, was added to the original church sometime during the American period.

It was Fr. Ulpiano Herrero who built the church’s beautiful sacristy...
Fr. Herrero also acquired the big and small bells for the belfry. He was responsible for building the wide and spacious dining room and kitchen of the convent, the different offices and the school for boys and girls. The spacious space under the convent was converted into school classrooms.

Fr. Herrero also acquired the church vestments, chalices and other sacred vessels for use in the church. He also built the altar of marble with the image of Saint Michael in the middle, that of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary at the Gospel side, and that of Santo Domingo at the Epistle side.

After the fire of May 3, 1893, the parish priest, Fr. Jose Campomanes, ordered better town planning with the houses built farther from each other to prevent another big fire.

Among the first missionaries who signed the baptismal certificates of the residents were Frs. Domingo Perez, Juan Pequero, Baltazar de Sta. Cruz, Josep de Ysusi and Francisco de Villalba.

After the takeover of the Secular priests, the first Dominican friar to be assigned as parish priest of Orion was Fr. Miguel Lerma in 1832. The last Dominican to administer to the parish was Fr. Ulpiano Herrero whose assistant was Fr. Julian Misol.

**ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL** is the patron saint of the Roman Catholics in Orion.

People had become familiar with the idea that St. Michael, the Archangel was not only the captain of the Heavenly Host and the Great Protector, but also the arbiter of man’s destinies on the threshold of the world to come. His feast is celebrated annually on September 29.

There are indications of an early cult of St. Michael connecting him with the wonders wrought by the hot springs of Phrygia, notably at Hierapolis, and it seems certain that already in the fourth century a church was dedicated under his name near Constantinople, possibly in the lifetime of the first Christian emperor, Constantine. There is also evidence that a basilica in honor of St. Michael was constructed near Rome at the sixth milestone along the Via Salaria at an early date. Several Masses, apparently connected with this shrine, are provided in the earliest Roman Mass-book, the so-called Leonianum, and are assigned to the end of September.

In a written legend summarized in the Breviary, the Archangel manifested his desire that a cave near the summit of the eminence called Mount Garganus be consecrated in his honor. Numberless miracles were believed to have been wrought in the cave or crypt where a spring trickled which was credited with healing virtue. The fame of the shrine soon spread all over the West. It is manifested by the fact that Mount Garganus is mentioned in one of the oldest manuscripts of the Flavonionian in connection with the Feast of St. Michael.
ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL PRIESTS

Except for a few pages involving baptismal and nuptial records, nothing more can be found in the archives of the St. Michael Archangel Church as a result of the big fire which razed the town on May 3, 1893. Records dating back from 1667 up to 1905 are forever gone. Only an intensive research in the books of the First Provincial Chapters of the Dominican Order in the Philippines can bring back the missing 240 year religious history of Orion.

Below are some of the existing records of the Orion Church. The first 14 parish priests in the list do not even have the dates of their tenure. The remaining 12 are those who labored in Orion from 1907 to the present. Even the dates of their tour of duty in Orion, are well written in the existing documents under the care of the church:

Fr. Domingo Perez is acknowledged as the first parish priest of Orion starting in 1667. He was followed by Fr. Juan Pequero, Baltazar de Sta. Cruz, Josep de Ysusi, Francisco de Villalba, Fr. Roman Cordero, Fr. Orot, Fr. Aviles, and Fr. Segundo, not necessarily in chronological order.

Sometime in 1770, the Dominicans transferred the ministration of St. Michael Archangel Parish to the Secular Clergy on orders of Governor-General and Archbishop Basilio Sancho de Santa Justa y Rufino. It was an act that put the Dominicans and other Regular priest under Diocesan visitation and Royal Patronage. The Dominicans were replaced by Secular priests, Filipino priests who do not belong to any Religious Order and were addressed as “Don” and not “Father.”

The list of Secular priests who were assigned in Orion from 1771 to 1832 was never found in the records of the Orion church. A few names, however, were mentioned in some existing documents:

Fr. Bartolome Urquisa 1827-1829
Fr. Silverio Tiambeng 1829-1830
Fr. Primitivo Salaveria 1830-1832
Fr. Miguel Fuster 1829-1832

Fr. Fuster was the priest who opened the Orion-Limay road via Daan Pare.

In 1832, the Dominicans returned to Orion and replaced the incumbent Secular priest.

The new Religious priests include:

Fr. Miguel Lerma 1832- n.a.
Fr. Cayetano Arellano 1846-1851
Fr. Pedro Rodriguez 1851-1854
Fr. Andres Chaveli 1854-1860
Fr. Ramon Rodriguez 1860-1868
Fr. Jose Campomanes n.a. -1893
Fr. Claro Arroyo 1895-1898
Fr. Ulpiano Herrero 1895-1898
Fr. Julian Misol 1896-1898

From 1898 to 1904, no priest, Spanish or otherwise, was assigned in Orion. Fr. Primitivo Baltazar, a priest and a true-blooded Orion native, was the first clergy to be allowed to hold services at the St. Michael the Archangel Parish three years after the Americans started its colonization of the country.

Fr. Primitivo Baltazar 1904-1936
Fr. Adriano Cuerpo (asst.) n.a.
Fr. Cornelio Salamat 1936-1952
Fr. Jose Z. Marquez 1955-1981
Fr. Wilfredo Pugui 1981-1986
Fr. Romeo Banaban 1986-1994
Fr. Armando Morales 1994-1995
Fr. Donnie Enero 1995-1996
Fr. Antonio Dumual 1996-2002
Fr. Florencio Braga 2002-2004
FR. MARIO PEREZ 2004-present
FR. RENE DE LEON (Guest Priest) 2004-present
STA. ELENA

Barangay Sta. Elena is one of the three southern barangays of Orion. It was formerly known as Mantigbe, then a sitio of Barangay Puting Buhangin. The name was changed to Sta. Elena on September 7, 1988 when it was formally recognized as a regular barangay. A plebiscite held on July 30, 1989 showed 552 residents were in favor of converting Sta. Elena into a barangay. Only thirteen people were against it.

The barangay, named after its patron saint, is bounded on the north and west by Daan Pare, on the south by Puting Buhangin, and on the east by Manila Bay. It has a land area of 25.43 hectares and inhabited by 1,128 as of 2003.

The barangay is accessible via the combined Bataan National Road and the Roman Expressway. It has a chapel, social hall, a complete elementary school and several tourism spots such as the Beni-Pres Resort and the Barbarin Hills.

Sta. Elena takes pride in having a native son, Kerby Ramirez, as one of the most bankable players in the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA), today.
SANTA ELENA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL is the newest public elementary school in Orion. It was established as a primary school in 1995 offering Grades I and II classes only. The initial number of pupils was registered at 27 only.

The school campus measuring about 3,025 square meters, was built on a former marshland. It is a public land, part of the 2.5 hectares reclaimed area which is being proposed as a local tourist attraction in the barangay. Today, the school has been developed and offers a complete elementary course. A new building has been constructed to house the Principal office and the intermediate level.

For the School Year 2005-2006, the school registered a total number of 159 elementary pupils. Mrs. Carmelita N. Ramos is the current head teacher. Seven teachers are assigned in Sta. Elena.
STO. DOMINGO

STO. DOMINGO is the sixth largest barrio among the 23 barangays in Orion. It has a land area of 302.04 hectares and inhabited by 3,064 people, based on the 2000 Census.

The barangay is another periphery locality about 2 kilometers north of the town proper. It has an access road that connects the Bataan National Road to the Roman Expressway. It was concreted during the term of Mayor Manuel C. Santos Jr.

Barangay Sto. Domingo was named after its patron, Sto. Domingo de Guzman, the same spiritual saint of the Abukenos.

Records have it that Sto. Domingo was established as a regular barangay in 1883. At that time, Camachile was still a part of Sto. Domingo. The two were separated in 1915, during the American Occupation (1901-1945). The Agustins, Trajanos, Cruzes, Canarias, Villegases, Romero and Bagtases were the early family settlers of Sto. Domingo.

During the Spanish era, there were two kabyawans or crude sugar mills in Sto. Domingo. They were owned by Victoriano Rodriguez and Victor Trajano. Besides farming, the residents are also involved in fishing in as much as their eastern boundary is Manila Bay.

During the American regime, the two sugar mills were closed. On its place, a rice mill was built in the area and operated by a native of Silang, Cavite.

From 1941 to 1942, the residents evacuated to the mountains. When the Japanese set up their garrison in Sto. Domingo, the people were enticed to return to their homes. Still, the people suffered physical torture from the ruthless conquerors. Almost one-third of the entire population were killed and all the houses and buildings were burned or destroyed during the Liberation year.

At the height of the Huk movement, Sto. Domingo was “zoned” by the Philippine Constabulary on the suspicion that many residents were harboring some of the rebel elements. Those suspected of involvement in the underground organization were arrested and tortured. Manuel R. Santos Sr., the person responsible for their release from confinement, won overwhelmingly in Sto. Domingo during the 1951 local elections.
STO. DOMINGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL was one of the pet projects of former Mayor Agustin I. Angeles (1946-1951). Its construction started in 1949. The school sits on a lot measuring about 5,062 square meters which was donated by Pedro Barcinas and Emiliana Rodriguez.

The school, however, remained a primary school for the next ten years. It offered classes in Grade I and Grade II only. The first three teachers were Guillermo Mateo, Candelaria Mariano and Remedios Sangalang.

It was former Mayor Manuel R. Santos Sr. (1959-1963) who initiated the completion of the school. He solicited the support of then Senator Juan Sumulong to appropriate a portion of his pork barrel funds to complete the school.

The completed school was inaugurated in June 1962. Mayor Santos Sr. wanted to name the school Don Juan Sumulong Elementary School but it was not pursued when he decided not to seek re-election during the 1963 local polls.

For the School Year 2005-2006, the school registered a total enrollment of 342. Mrs. Angelita M. San Jose, the principal, and 11 regular teachers attend to the educational needs of the children of Sto. Domingo.
APPROPRIANO GUZON TIAMBENG was the eight mayor of Orion who served from 1918 to 1919.

Mayor Tiambeng was a native of Bagumbayan, Orion. His parents were Venerando Tiambeng and Leopolda Guzon. It is said that Tiambeng once resided in Corregidor starting in 1907 when the island was being transformed by the Americans into a fortress. He spent time in Corregidor not as a construction worker but as an ordinary barber in Barrio San Jose. Later on, he was designated or hired as a manpower supplier in the Corregidor project. It was here where he amassed wealth and power.

In 1917, he returned to Orion and ran for the mayoralty position against incumbent Mayor Donato Calimbas. Calimbas used his family’s wealth to remain in power but his strategies failed miserably. Tiambeng triumphed at the polls and started his administration in 1918. Unfortunately, his term was cut short in 1919 after Governor Pedro Rich placed Orion and Pilar under military control in December 1919.

Tiambeng was replaced by Simeon Rodriguez who also served as Pilar mayor simultaneously until 1921.

**Traditions/Customs**

Orion is rich in traditional practices and customs. Most of them are no longer observed today but they have been a part of the town’s history and culture. Others are still being practiced but have come to terms with modern times and technology.

**Flores de Mayo**—May is the month of flowers. Marian devotees come to the Catholic Church every afternoon to observe a month-long offering of flowers to the Blessed Virgin. This culminates on the last Sunday with a procession participated in by the Block Rosary units of each barangay.

**Lenten Season**—as it is locally known begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Sunday. The passion and death of Jesus is commemorated with fasting and abstinence. In the past, eating meat is avoided on all Fridays.
Everyone is prohibited from reading, listening to the radio, watching tv or movies and other recreations. They are to read/chant the “Pasyon” instead. These are strictly practiced by the Catholics up to the early part of the 20th century.

**Palm Sunday (Domingo de Ramos or Palaspas)**—is the first day of the Holy Week. The Catholics flock to the church for the reenactment of Jesus’ entrance to Jerusalem.

Elevated stages were constructed in the plaza, but in the recent times balconies of the selected houses are used for the purpose. Here, children dressed as angels sing Hosana as they shower flowers to the passing procession. Women in the procession lay veils on the ground as the priest passes and blesses the palms or the palaspas. A high mass follows after the procession.

**Kubo-kubo and the Penetents**—Kubo-kubo is the term given to temporary structures built along the route of the procession held on Holy Wednesday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. They are built the “bayanihan way” by the barangay folks on Palm Sunday and house the altars that depict the 14 Stations of the Cross. Each Kubo-kubo tries to outdo each other in their presentation. This is where the barangay folks meditate as they chant the Pasyon.

The flagellants known as “Gapang” or “Gulong” are half-naked men who roll on the streets to frustrate themselves in front of the main altar on Holy Wednesday as penance for sins committed. On Good Friday, their backs initially wounded by broken glasses, are continuously whipped by themselves as they pass the kubo-kubo until they bleed. They culminate the ritual by taking a bath in the river.

In the 90’s, there emerge another group of flagellants who carry heavy cross is made out of newly cut trunks of trees.

**Good Friday**—people flock to the church as early as 12 pm to meditate on the “Seven Last Words” or “Siete Palabras”. Some consider the three hour ordeal as penance for their sins. Others stay home, watch and listen to the radio broadcast for homilies on Christ’s last words.

At 3pm, church goers witness a dramatic presentation of Christ’s death. Sounds of hidden drums signal a person at the base of the altar to loosen the rope that holds to the head of the Christ image on the crucifix to make it bow down. The veneration on the Cross and public kissing of the image of Santo Intierro follows. The image is a donation of Don Cayetano Arellano.

A long procession commemorating the Lord’s funeral is held at night.

**Easter Sunday**—Black Saturday remains a day of silence. At night, people flock to a place in Lati called Galeleia where the “Subok” is held to select the child who will perform as angel in the “Salubong” ritual on Easter morning. The contestant, who sings the song Regina Coeli; more popularly known as “Alleluia” or “Orecsek” the best is declared the winner.
ATTY. FILEMON TRINIDAD, a native of Lati, Orion, was the provincial administrator of Bataan from 1970 to 1983. Upon retirement, he was designated as Special Prosecutor under the Office of the Provincial Governor.

Atty. Trinidad completed his Law degree and passed the Bar examinations too. His employment at the Capitol began in 1970 when he served as Bataan’s provincial attorney. He kept the position during the entire 15-year administration of former Governor Efren B. Pascual (1971-1986). He retired from government service on May 10, 1983 but the provincial board re-hired him as Special Prosecutor until 1986.

Atty. Trinidad currently resides in Kamuning, Quezon city, together with his family.

**TRADITIONS/CUSTOMS**

**Ligiran**—is a religious practice among Orion Catholics where the image of St. Michael, the Archangel, is brought to the sea and placed in a decorated “basing” on May 8, his feast day. At high noon, townfolks riding on smaller bancas, go around the basing, singing and offering thanksgiving prayers to the archangel.

**Palusong**—is the bayanihan spirit among the farmers of Orion who group themselves into teams when mechanized tractors and modern farm implements are not available to them. They work together in plowing and harrowing the field of a teammate during his scheduled planting date. Service, lunch and merriendas are free.

**Pinipig Season**—is that time in September when people of Orion go out at night and flock to places where pinipig is produced. “Duman” which the people of Orion fondly call pinipig, is unripe grains of glutinous rice or “malagkit” which is roasted in a “palayok”, then pounded by a pair to the tune of an accompanying guitar. The folks love to buy and eat “duman” or use it for “binatog” (popped duman with sweetened coconut milk.)

**Santakruzan**—is a religious procession of “sagalas” in May to re-enact the founding of the Holy Cross by Queen Helen and her son, Constantine. In the recent times, the procession is followed by street dancing or Caracol. The affair is manage by selected hermanas/hermanos in each barangay. A Grand Santakruzan is held on the last Sunday of the month arranged and managed by the St. Michael the Archangel Parish Pastoral Council.

**Vernacular Language**—Orion folks use some terms and expressions that are unique in other places. An example is adding “ay” with rising intonation at the end of a sentence ie. Hindi naman ay. The following words are examples found in town’s vernacular: taguling (canal or water ways), nadumog (run over by a vehicle), maparas (spicy), makasat (naughty), patko (sweetened grated coconut), ginaok (cocojam in bamboo), gasak (kaingin), yari ka na? (are you done?), para kang si iriot (dressed in bad taste) etc.

**Santakruzan in Arellano**

**Ligiran**

**Small bancas prepare for Ligiran**

**The Filipino bayanihan spirit**

**Palusong**

**Pinipig Season**

**Santakruzan in Arellano**

**Vernacular Language**

**TRINIDAD, Filemon**
The UNDERGROUND MOVEMENT in Orion refers to clandestine organizations which were established in town for a definite purpose or objective. The history of these factions, big or small, cover more than 100 years starting from the later part of the Spanish era to the present.

The first known underground organization in Orion was the Dampulan, a local Katipunan unit organized by Lieutenant Victor T. Baltazar, son of Francisco Baltazar. The Dampulan was specifically organized to liberate the town from the tyranny of the Spaniards. The members believed that the only way to accomplish their objective was to prepare for an armed conflict. Baltazar and the Dampulan rebels were responsible for the defeat of the Orion-based Spaniards during the successful May 29, 1898 rebellion.

The underground movement continued in Orion even after the Spaniards were forced out of town. Local rebels took up their arms when the Filipino-American hostilities began in early 1899. A big number of Orion rebels, to include Victor Baltazar, laid down their arms as a result of the American peace propaganda. The brutal treatment of captured guerillas, however forced the other lesser known rebels to join the Philippine Army organized in Bataan by Major Manuel L. Quezon.

The relentless campaign of the Americans ultimately led to the downfall of the remaining Orion rebels in 1901, the same year General Emilio Aguinaldo was captured in Palanan, Isabela. One of the last rebel leaders who surrendered to American Captain John Gouldman was Lt. Luis L. Baltazar.

During the Japanese Occupation, another underground movement was organized in Orion. It was called the guerilla organization. Captain Tomas Pangilinan de Guzman, a former USAFFE soldier from San Vicente who escaped from the Death March, was the acknowledged leader of the group. It belonged to the so-called Second Regiment, Bataan Military District under the command of US Colonel John P. Boone based in Tala, Orani. They were tasked to perform three functions: to ambush or otherwise kill enemy soldiers; gather and relay important intelligence reports; and to liquidate spies and Japanese sympathizers. The last two tasks were easily complied with. There was no report of ambush against the enemy in Orion during the entire Japanese Occupation. Orion guerillas and local Hukbalahaps actively participated in the mopping-up operations against Japanese stragglers during the Liberation. Capt. De Guzman served later on as chief of police of Orion.

The Hukbalahaps, on the other hand, continued to sow terror among the residents of Orion after the war, especially after it was retain by the government. In 1960, a Huk leader named Silvestre Liwanag, a.k.a. Linda Bie, was arrested in Calungusan by members of the 15th Philippine Constabulary team led by Major Wilfredo Encarnacion. Linda Bie was the third highest Huk leader in the country during that time.

The Communist Party of the Philippines-New Peoples Army, as well as the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan (RHB) also became a major concern in Orion starting in the late 1970s and up to the present.
URQUISA, Francisco

FRANCISCO URQUISA was the sixth mayor of Orion. He served from 1914 to 1916. He was also the town’s vice mayor from 1912 to 1914.

Mayor Urquisa’s name was not listed in the initial record of former individuals who served as municipal mayor of Orion. The book entitled History of Bataan, published in June 1953, proved otherwise. Victor M. de Leon (acting Bataan Schools Division Superintendent at that time) wrote that Urquisa both served as mayor and vice mayor of the town.

The historical data concerning Urquisa and other former mayors of Orion were destroyed during World War II. Informations gathered recently, however, showed that Mayor Urquisa was the son of Margarito Urquisa, a nephew of Fr. Bartolome Urquisa (a Spanish priest assigned in Orion from 1827 to 1829). Margarito’s father (Belarmino) came to the Philippines and stayed in the convent wherever Fr. Bartolome was assigned. Belarmino chose to stay in Orion even after his brother was re-assigned in another parish. Later on, he married a local woman from San Vicente. The couple had two sons: Rodrigo and Margarito, the father of Mayor Francisco Urquisa.

Mayor Urquisa grew up in Orion but transferred to Manila in 1891 to complete his secondary education. He had to quit his college studies at the height of the Philippine Revolution and returned to Orion. Starting in 1903, he was employed as an elementary school teacher in Balanga. Ten years later, he ran for vice mayor of Orion together with mayoralty aspirant Francisco Calimbas of Arellano. Both of them won and served until 1914.

Mayor Calimbas declined to run for another term and anointed Urquisa as the party’s official candidate. He even supported his campaign. It was a successful bid and Urquisa reigned until 1916. At the end of his term, Urquisa gave way to his party’s new candidate for mayor, Donato, Mayor Calimbas’ own brother. Urquisa returned to his teaching job and settled in Balanga with his family.

UY, Gregorio

GREGORIO SANTOS UY JR. (1965– ) was Orion’s representative to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Bataan from November 1985 to July 1992 in his capacity as provincial federation president of the Kabataang Barangay (KB) and later on, of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK). After his term as SK chairman, he ran and was elected as provincial board member. He served from August 1992 to June 1998.

“Jun” Uy was born in Calungusan, Orion on September 1, 1965. His parents were Gregorio Uy Sr., a former town councilor, and Remedios Santos-Uy. He was barely 17 years old when he was elected as president of the Orion-KB.

After winning as president of the KB provincial federation in November 1985, he replaced Dominador Carunungan of Pilar, then the ex-officio member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan. He was…
also elected as Central Luzon regional president of the youth organization and even beat Herbert Bautista of Quezon City in the national election of the said organization. The 1986 EDSA Revolution, however, prevented him from becoming a “member” of the House of Representatives.

It was no less than former Governor Leonardo B. Roman who persuaded Uy to run for a board member position in 1992. Although Roman lost to another gubernatorial candidate Enrique T. Garcia Jr., the amiable Jun Uy easily made it to the list of winning board members.

He won twice as board member, in 1995 and 1998. During this period, he was able to complete his Bachelor’s degree in Commerce at the Bataan Colleges. He also married Catherine Carmela Resurrection of Balanga City with whom he had two children: Christian and Vincent Gregorio.

Jun Uy became the campaign manager of Gov. Roman after his third term expired in 2001. In the 2004 elections, he refused to make a political comeback and instead, played the same role when Roman ran for congressman of the Second District in 2004. Unfortunately, Roman lost to former Balanga City Mayor Albert S. Garcia.

Uy is involved in several business ventures he himself established.

VENEGAS, Dominador N.

DOMINADOR NAVAL VENEGAS (1921-2005) was the congressman of the Second Congressional District of Bataan from 1992 to 1995.

Cong. Venegas, a native of Lati, Orion, was born on August 8, 1921. He finished a Commerce degree in Manila and put up the Far Eastern Diesel Parts and Supply Company which supplies machine and spare parts to light and heavy equipment companies, as well as the shipping industry. Before reaching the age of 40, Venegas was already a successful businessman. In fact, he was one of the biggest taxpayers in the country. Surprisingly, he chose to pay his taxes in Bataan which somehow helped the financial standing of Bataan. Local government officials wrote to him regularly urging him to pay his taxes in a particular municipality.

Cong. Venegas was already 70 years old when he decided to enter the local political scene. He ran for a seat in Congress in 1992 against Pablo Roman, Jr. of Pilar and Norberto Gonzales of Balanga City. It was the time when the incumbent Congressman Enrique T. Garcia Jr. ran for the gubernatorial post against Leonardo B. Roman. Venegas and Garcia won at the polls.

As congressman, Cong. Venegas used most of his pork barrel funds for major infrastructure projects in his district, most notable of which were the Bilolo access road, the Mariveles Circumferential Road and the town’s covered auditorium.

In 1995, Venegas ran for re-election but was outpolled by Enrique Garcia Jr. He immediately filed a protest in court. When the court decided in favor of Garcia, Venegas gave up politics and enjoyed his retirement from business and government affairs.

He passed away in January 2005 at the age of 84.
VILLA ANGELES was formerly an agricultural land partly belonging to Wakas and Capunitan. It is bounded on the north by Lati and Lusuangan, on the south and west by Wakas, and on the east by Capunitan. The barangay measures 8.31 hectares and presently inhabited by 1,605 people.

It was in the 1960’s when the wealthy and influential Angeles family who owned the land, developed it into a subdivision. In time, it became a plushy community even though there were only few asphalted roads which easily eroded during rainy seasons. Streets and access roads were marked with pot holes. Still, middle-income families and even the moneyed ones readily bought housing lots in the area.

Villa Angeles was turned over to the municipal government on October 27, 1966. Former Mayor Gabriel L. Manrique initiated the construction of new concrete roads inside and around the subdivision.

Former municipal councilor Alfred T. Seeckts, a resident of Villa Angeles spearheaded the move to change the status of the subdivision into a regular barangay. The formal creation of Barangay Villa Angeles was approved by the provincial government on February 4, 1972, during the administration of Governor Efren B. Pascual and Mayor Gabby Manrique.

More infrastructure projects were completed in Villa Angeles during the administration of former Congressmen Tet Garcia and Dominador Venegas. These projects include concrete streets and access roads, barangay hall, health center, day care center, playground and plaza, street lights and much improve drainage systems.

Present Villa Angeles is a far cry from the barangay it was from fifteen years ago.
WAKAS is one of the earliest periphery barangays of Orion. It was established during the Spanish era and initially known as Barangay de Hipolito dela Cruz, in honor of its first cabeza de barangay.

The barangay has a total land area of 14.29 hectares. It is bounded on the north by Lati, on the south by Daan Pare, on the east by Capunitan and Villa Angeles, and on the west by Daan Bilolo. Wakas used to be the biggest barangay situated south of San Vicente River. Daan Bilolo was formerly a part of Wakas. Villa Angeles, about half of it, also belonged to Wakas before the place was turned into a subdivision in the 1960s.

It was Governor Gregorio Quicho who established Wakas as a regular barangay in 1928. It was again recognized as a new barangay on July 24, 1961 after its new boundaries were established. Wakas remains a residential and commercial community. Some 950 people reside in the barangay based on the 2000 Census.

Lucong River is the primary river tributary of Wakas. The barangay has a social hall and a day care center but no elementary school. Children enroll at Orion Elementary School which is just a stone throw away.

Wakas used to host of the post-war public market of Orion. The site is presently occupied by the St. Michael Hospital.
FOREWORD. Years before the advent of World War II, General Douglas MacArthur and the United States Army in the Philippines had already prepared a plan to defend Manila. The defense called War Plan Orange consisted of fortifying Corregidor and the satellite islands of Cavite and Bataan. Such plan would deny any enemy the use of Manila Bay and its strategic ports. Bataan was picked as the ideal site for a long defensive stand. They knew that as long as Bataan was in the U.S. hands, no enemy would be able to capture Manila. Here is a chronology of events before and during World War II.

**1941**

**December 08**
- The Japanese Navy and Air Force attack Pearl Harbor (at 2 a.m., Manila Time). At 4 a.m., a 490-strong Japanese assault team land on Batan, Batanes to secure an airbase. At 5:00 a.m., the City of Baguio and Davao are bombed by the Japanese Air force. At 12 noon, Clark Field in Pampanga is also bombed. Fiesta revelry in Puerto Rivas, Balanga come to a stop at noon. Visitors go home in a hurry.
- **Orion residents experienced total blackout. They heard bombings coming from distant locations through the night.**

**December 09**
- At 4 a.m., 4,000 Japanese soldiers known as the Kanno and Tanaka detachments, land in Vigan, Ilocos Sur and Aparri, as well as in Gonzaga, Cagayan.
- **News of the Japanese landings force the residents of Orion to store foods. Many families start to take their valuables to the mountains. They also begin constructing huts in the area. They stay away from the town during the day and only return at night. Others prepare their bancas to cross Manila Bay towards Hagonoy, Bulacan.**

**December 10**
- The USAFFE North Luzon Force is mobilized to guard beach positions from Pangasinan, to Ilocos region, Aparri and Cagayan Valley.
- **General Douglas MacArthur orders his division commanders to strengthen their respective beach positions.**

**December 22**
- At 4 a.m., the main Japanese invasion force known as the 48th Division under the command of Lt. General Yuichi Tsuchibashi, lands along the coast of Lingayen Gulf, Pangasinan; and in Agoo, Santo Tomas, and Bauang, La Union.

**December 24**
- At 6 a.m., the Japanese 16th Division lands in Tayabas, Atimonan, and Mauban, Quezon. These towns are captured before noon time despite the strong defense put up by the South Luzon Force.
- At noon, General MacArthur informs his commanders that “War Plan Orange 3” is in effect. He activates the Bataan Defense Force, under the command of General Parker.
- At 10 p.m., General Parker reaches Balanga, and acquires the 57th Infantry Regiment (Phil. Scouts), 31st and 41st Divisions and small units already in Bataan. Mass evacuation of civilians to Mariveles has began.
- At 11 p.m., MacArthur and President Manuel L. Quezon reach Corregidor Island and stay there.
- **The first batch of USAFFE soldiers led by Gen. Vicente Lim arrives and occupies Abucay, with Laon and Gabon used as headquarters.**

**December 25**
- General Jonathan Wainwright and his North Luzon Force...
December 27
- Wainwright establishes the San Miguel, Tarlac-Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija Defense Line. Meanwhile, American and Filipino soldiers start arriving in Balanga. Japanese planes drop bombs in Balanga and other parts where soldiers are concentrated.

December 28
- The South Luzon Force under General Jones, abandons the defense lines in Lipa City, Tiaong (Quezon), and Lusiana (Laguna) and proceeds to Calumpit, Bulacan.

December 30
- Japanese planes drop bombs along the coastal towns, from Abucay to Limay.

December 31
- Two Japanese forces from Pangasinan and Laguna reach Baliuag, Bulacan and engage the defenders in fierce encounters.

January 01
- Wainwright deploys the 21st Division along the Angeles-Porac-Lubao road; the 11th Division along the San Fernando -Guagua-Lubao road.

January 02
- Residents of Orion continue their daily chore, staying away from the town during the day and returning only at night. USAFFE soldiers start arriving in town. Meanwhile, civilians in Orani, Samal, Abucay and Balanga are ordered by the USAFFE to evacuate or move five kilometers away from the town center.

January 04
- After several bombings and repeated attacks by the Japanese, the Guagua-Porac defense line is abandoned.
- That same day, the Hermosa-Dinalupihan Defense Line is established. It is placed under the responsibility of their 71st Division, the 31st Regiment and the 26th US Cavalry. But after two days of bombings by the Japanese, the line is abandoned.
- The 26th Cavalry is cut off but is able to rejoin the main force in Balanga after three days of pushing through jungle trails from Hermosa to Abucay. The following day, the Japanese arrive in Palihan.

January 06
- Wainwright activates the I and II Corps and the Service Command Area. A line is drawn from the peak of Mount Natib down to Mount Mariveles. Continued Japanese bombings set Balanga on fire. Corregidor is also subjected to heavy air raids.
January 07 - The Japanese column reaches Samal.

January 08 - The 200,000-strong Japanese Army begins attacking the Abucay-Morong Defense Line, starting from Barangay Mabatang. The Japanese suffers heavy casualties during the next five days of fightings.

January 11 - The line from the coastal area up to Mabatang hills is abandoned. The Japanese advances to Calaylayan and the town proper of Abucay and burns all houses to the ground. Laon and Calaylayan are spared. The enemy kills many civilians.

January 12 - The USAFFE soldiers retreat to the Hacienda Hills area.

January 14 - The Japanese attacks the 41st and 51st Divisions camped near the Hacienda Hills. The 41st Division defends its ground but the 51st Division abandons its major battle positions.

January 15 - The 31st Division from Bagac is sent to reinforce the Abucay Line but gets lost in the Guitol forest. The 45th and the 31st Infantry Regiments try to help and succeed in restoring some portions of the Abucay line, at the foot of Mount Natib.

January 16 - A Japanese official, Lt. Col. Kuro Kitamura, commits suicide (hara-kiri) in Sitio Binlok, San Juan, Samal, for his failure to capture the Abucay-Morong line in three days.

January 17 - Some groups of Japanese from Olongapo are able to penetrate the jungles of Sabang, near Mount Silanganan and set up a road block at Mauban Bridge in Morong.

January 20 - The Eastern Japanese Regiment crosses the Salian River and gets into position to strike at the rear of the 41st Division and the 57th Infantry Regiment. But the Japanese gets lost inside the Bani–Guitol forest area.

January 22 - The arrival of the Japanese in Mauban, Morong from Olongapo is discovered. Wainwright orders the 71st and the 91st Divisions, and the 2nd PC Regiment to attack the Japanese. But the enemy is already too strong to be pushed back.

January 23 - Still another Japanese group lands at the Lapiay Point in Mariveles.
January 24 - At midnight, the USAFFE had a hand-to-hand combat with the Japanese in the Hacienda Hills. As the Abucay-Morong is finally abandoned, the USAFFE quickly withdraws from the Southern Sector of the Abucay-Morong Defense Line.

- The Japanese sentry at Mauban, Morong forces the defenders to use the coastal trails leaving their organic vehicles and supporting artilleries.

January 25 - The II Corps move back to Orion; the I Corps settle in Bagac. Residents of Orion move to the Mamala River area. Others cross Manila Bay and proceed to Pampanga and Bulacan.

January 26 - The Orion-Bagac Defense Line is established. The Pantigan-Mount Mariveles Line is also set up. Meanwhile, the Japanese are able to penetrate through the Gogo-Cotar and Tuol Rivers.

January 27 - USAFFE elements engage the Japanese in the Gogo-Cotar River Valley. Another Japanese group attacks the Capot Hill area. In a week, elements of the 31st, 32nd, 41st Infantry Regiments, the 51st RCT and 31st Engineering Battalion counter the attacks.

January 29 - The 300 Japanese in Lapiay Point are annihilated by the elements of the US Air Force, US Naval Battalion, 2nd Antitank Battalion and the 57th Infantry Regiment.

January 30 - A bigger Japanese force lands at Quinawan, Bagac. The USAFFE launches a counter-attack and annihilate one Japanese regiment.

January 31 - Wainwright orders the reinforcement of the 31st Division defending the Capot Hill.

February 01 - The USAFFE routs the Japanese force in the Capot Hill-Liyang area.

February 13 - The USAFFE wins the Battle of Points in Bagac.

February 17 - The Battle of Pockets is terminated. General Brougher relieves General Jones due to the latter’s illness.

February 18 - There is lull in fighting. The Japanese Air Force, which at the start of the invasion was busy in aerial attacks, is now out of the picture. The Japanese High Command has withdrawn the Air Force out of the Philippines. The period of lull was characterized by a battle of propaganda.

- General Masaharu Homma, by his own admission during the trial, said that as commanding general of the Japanese Army engaged in the Battle of Bataan, he was very worried should the USAFFE starts pushing them back. He added that he could have lost the war as one-third of his 16th Division have already succumbed to diseases and have become battle casualties.

**WAR**

**USAFFE soldiers jump out of their bunker to meet the enemy.**

**Filipino-American troops bound to Bataan**

**Spoils of war**

As the Japanese advances toward Orion, the USAFFE blows up two bridges in town: Tulay Gitna and Tulay na Bato. Two bridges were repaired by the United States Army Construction Corps after the Liberation.

**Gen. Edward King, center, signs the surrender documents in Balanga.**

**The start of Death March**

February 20 - Civilians camped in Cabacaben, Mariveles are allowed to return to their homes. Only a few Orion residents returned despite repeated calls from the Japanese.

March 12 - MacArthur leaves Corregidor for Australia.

March 20 - One infantry division arrives in the Philippines as reinforcement from Japan, complete with war supplies like artillery and airplanes.

March 21 - Wainwright is promoted to Lt. General and takes over the command of the US Armed Forces in the Philippines (USAFIP). The I Corps is given to General Jones.

March 22 - The Japanese begins another saturated bombing of Corregidor.

April 01 - General Homma orders a new artillery fire and saturation bombings of Mount Samat and its surroundings to celebrate the founding of the Japanese Empire.

April 03 - The Japanese attacks Mount Samat.

April 04 - The Japanese captures the northern part of Mount Samat. Casualty is heavy on both sides.

April 05 - The Japanese reaches the top of Mount Samat and uses it as observation post.

April 06 - The Japanese starts using Balanga Elementary School as garrison. The schoolground and the vacant lot in Ibayo (where the present INC church stands) are used as POW concentration camps. One Major Tanaka is assigned as garrison commander of Balanga Elementary School. Lt. Kanashiro is his intelligence officer and interpreter. Meanwhile, the corner lot near the Balanga Cathedral is used as an office of the Japanese Army.

April 07 - The Japanese attack the remaining Orion Defense Line. Meanwhile, the defenders prepare another line along the Mamala River in Limay knowing that the USAFFE will soon abandon the Orion Line. Both lines are abandoned at noon.

April 08 - The Alangan Defense Line is established. In the afternoon, it also collapses.

April 09 - The Lamao Defense Line is established but immediately abandoned.

- At 9:30 a.m., emissaries of General Edward P. King are sent to the Japanese line to negotiate for a truce.

- At 11 a.m., General Bluemel establishes the Cabacaben Defense Line but it is no longer necessary.

- At 10 a.m., Wainwright tries from Corregidor to contact General King but fails. He merely wants to ask King to rescind his offer of surrender.

- At 12:30 p.m., General King proceeds to Lamao Agricultural Experimental Station and surrenders to Col. Motoo Nakayana, a representative of General Homma.

- At 12:45, King is finished signing documents of surrender.

April 10 - General King and some American officials are brought to the Balanga Elementary School where he signs the final surrender documents.

- At 10 a.m., the infamous “Death March” start from Mariveles and Bagac. Civilians walk home alongside the soldier-prisoners.
WAWA was established as a regular barangay on July 24, 1961 together with Lati, Daan Bago and Wakas. At that time, the barangay only has a land area of four hectares, about the size of Barangay Arellano. It gained land mass in the early 1980s after a reclamation project was implemented in the area. The reclaimed land, about three hectares, was immediately distributed to several landless residents of Orion. Gradually, the population of the barangay increased.

The barangay is situated at the mouth of San Vicente (Orion) River which explains how it got its name. It is bounded on the north by Balut, on the south by Daan Bago, on the east by Manila Bay and on the west by Bagumbayan and San Vicente River. It covers a total land area of 7.07 hectares and inhabited by 1,752 people.

Mayor Gabriel Manrique who initiated the dredging of the San Vicente River and the coastal area of Wawa also established the Pablo Roman Elementary School, a complete learning institution, for the children of the barangay and neighboring villages. About 8,508 square meters of reclaimed land was appropriated for the said school.

The present Wawa is one of the most developed barangays in Orion.
“X” marks the spot.

Treasure-hunting is a continuing craze in Orion. It is one of the most exciting adventures ever experienced by man because of the promise of instant wealth. It explains why local and visiting treasure hunters regularly come to Orion looking for buried treasures. All of them carried an old maps with the regular “X” on them. A successful digging means gold, silver, old money and all the glitter that come with it.

Gold or treasure hunting is not a new occupation. Immediately after World War II, someone or a group visited Orion to dig for buried treasures. Armed with shovels, metal detectors and maps, hunters spent days and sometimes months digging holes in places where treasures were supposedly buried during the intense fightings in Bataan during the last war.

Hunters believed that American and Japanese soldiers had the time to bury the treasures while the battles were going on in various places in Bataan, especially in Orion. They were convinced that the maps they were carrying were genuine and could bring them fabulous wealth.

Treasure hunters worked clandestinely while digging for treasures. They dig only at night in open fields. But when the site is secluded, operation is done continuously, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

There have been many stories about successful diggings in Orion. Their stories also contained tales of booby traps, poisonous gases and even ghosts and spirits guarding the buried treasures. Even at present, at least a couple of treasure hunters operate in Orion in any given day.

Youth

The YOUTH of Orion, aged 15 to 18 years old, account for more than 25 percent of the present distribution of the population. Just like the Senior Citizens group, the youth were given the opportunity to maximize their contributions to nation-building. As early as 1975, they were already given the good fortune to participate in the affairs of the local government through the formation of the Kabataang Barangay (formerly KB, now SK or Sangguniang Kabataan).
Each barangay in Orion has an SK organization composed of a chairman, seven members, a secretary and a treasurer. They promulgate resolutions necessary to carry out their objectives. They initiate programs which will enhance the social, political, economic, cultural, intellectual, moral, spiritual and physical development of the members.

To ensure smooth implementation of the SK programs, they consult and coordinate with all the members in the barangay, municipal, provincial and national levels for policy formulation.

The current youth organization in Orion has the following officials:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Barangay</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Rex Joseph R. Fuster</td>
<td>Wawa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Jason S. Guzon</td>
<td>Calungusan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Laarni D. Roxas</td>
<td>Camachile</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Cecille Medrano</td>
<td>Lati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditor</td>
<td>Jonald D. Igaloy</td>
<td>Wakas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRO</td>
<td>Kristine Joy D. Baluyot</td>
<td>San Vicente</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgt. At Arms</td>
<td>Ricardo Buado</td>
<td>Sabatan</td>
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ZARZUELA is an art form which captured the hearts and minds of the Filipinos during the later years of the Spanish regime. It was introduced by the Spaniards by the end of the 1870’s. It was used effectively as anti-American protest plays during the so-called “era of suppressed nationalism” (1901-1910).

The zarzuela is a three-act musical drama played live on stage. There were songs within the drama. The dialogue deviated from the usual verses as in the comedia. It was everyday language that was used with a lot of idioms. Only the highlighted values and moral lessons are in verses.

The first zarzuela was played in Manila by Spanish cast of a Spanish musical drama. It was at its infancy stage when it caught the fancy of the Filipinos. They found it extremely entertaining. In time, Filipino writers were already composing their own musical dramas and even their musical scores. Severino Reyes,.....

Big zarzuela productions were common in Manila during the early 1900s. Played live on stage, the characters talked in verses and a lot of idioms. The three-act musical drama became popular in Bataan at the time when movies with sound tracks invaded Manila.
ZARZUELA

...Aurelio Tolentino and Hermogenes Ilagan were the first Filipino zarzuela writers. This was in 1880 until 1910. Reyes’ masterpiece, Walang Sugat, was first staged on June 14, 1902 at the Zorilla Theater in Manila. It was staged more than 500 times in different stages all over the country by different zarzuela groups for the next 30 years.

Zarzuela also became popular in Bataan at the time when movies with sound tracks invaded Manila. Zarzuela made its grand exit from the city scene and moved to the provinces where the urban folk stuck it out with the art form they can relate. Mabatang, Abucay was the first to organize its stage group in the late 1920s. Other groups followed. Hermosa had two dramatic groups when zarzuela was at its peak.

Orion also had an organized zarzuela group, the Bela Dramatic Troupe, starting in 1930. It was founded by Benito Labandillo of Puting Buhangin who also wrote a script entitled Alibughang Magulang. He made use of the talented youth from all over the town and had their gala performance at the Orion plaza in May 1931. It was then Mayor Jose Baltazar who paid for the expenses of the group in the absence of a major sponsor. Unfortunately, it was the first and last presentation of the dramatic troupe. Manila-based zarzuela groups that once dominated the entertainment circle in Orion during every town fiesta returned and took control. La Dicha Cigarettes and La Tondena Incorporated, two entertainment establishments that employed zarzuela talents continued their popularity along the eastern coastal towns of Bataan. Comedians Dely Atay-atayan and Andoy Balunbalunan made their imprints among Orion audience.

Labandillo, wrote two more scripts, Budhing Mapag-imbot and Masilaw but were never presented on stage.

During the revival period of Comedia and Moro-moro in the 1950’s and 1960’s, a local artistic group emerged from San Vicente. It was managed by Florencio Magpoc who was also the script writer and director. Stage performances were usually done in the plaza during the feast of St. Michael the Archangel to the accompaniment of the band.

Foreign artists, mostly Spaniards and Europeans, are cast in big zarzuela productions.

Movies in Orion
MER Theater, owned and operated by Federico and Maria Magat, opened in Orion in 1949. Ticket costs 20 centavos per person. It closed in 1959 after the owner of the lot refused to sell the property to the Magats.
A ZIGZAG means to a line or course that turns left and right alternately at sharp angles. Bataan has four major thoroughfares where zigzag exists. They are found in Dinalupihan (Roosevelt area), Mariveles (Alas-asin), Morong (Mauban) and Pilar-Bagac (from Pantingan to Atilano Ricardo).

Zigzag is absent in the entire length of the Roman Expressway traversing Orion. The same is true with the Bataan National Road. The steep curve that lies in Barangay Sta. Elena does not qualify as a zigzag. It is just an oblique road. Even the sharp curve near the Orion-Limay boundary, immediately after the Joriz Farm going to Limay, is a simple twisted road. These two locations are far from the winding and tortuous zigzags found in Mariveles, Morong and Dinalupihan.

Vehicular accidents usually occur on these sharp road curves.

**Zigzag sign**

The Daan Pare-Sta. Elena portion of the Bataan National Road has a gentle curve, not a zigzag.

**Zigzag road**

A gentle curve road in Datimpugad, Daan Pare

**Twisted road in Puting Buhangin**

Vehicular accidents usually occur on sharp curve roads.