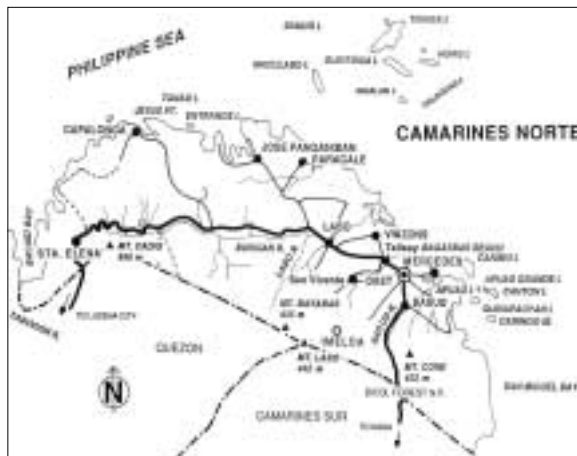


aircrafts also serve the province through the feeder airport located in Bagasbas, Daet

Some of the bus companies serving the province are: **Philtranco, Mabel Tours, Peñafrancia Tours, BLTB Co., Superlines, and AMA Tours.** All these big transportation companies have first class, ordinary, and air-conditioned buses plying the Manila/Daet/Manila or Cubao/Daet/Cubao route.

Camarines Norte's pride are its places of interest and historical landmarks such as: **Rizal Monument** in Daet, the first Rizal Monument erected in the Philippines in 1898, **Wenceslao Q. Vinzon Sr. Historical Shrine** with public library and museum, **St. Peter Church** in Vinzons which is one of the oldest churches in the Philippines, **Jose Ma. Panganiban Monument**, and **Laniton Park**, site of the first guerilla encounter against the Japanese Imperial Army.

The province offers clear waters, white sand beaches, and underground caves ideal for surfing, scuba diving, picnic, and hiking. Among these are: the **Bagasbas Beach**, four kilometers away from the town of Daet, its sea waves is ideal for surfing; **Apuao Grande Island** is famous for its white sand and un-sullied water best for water sports like scuba diving and is 45 minutes ride by boat from Mercedes; **Pulang Daga Beach** situated in Paracale is two hours ride by bus from Daet and an ideal place for picnic and swimming; **Mercedes Group of Islands** cater to tourists in search of secluded resort destinations and outstanding natural landscapes and seascapes. The islands have white sand beaches, clear waters and calm waves. **Canton Cave** is another exhilarating wonder for brave adventurers; and **Itok Falls** about 75 km. northwest of Daet and four km. west of Capalonga. It is surrounded by lush foliage.



The **Bitukang Manok**, a man-made attraction features the winding road which can be viewed from the Department of Public Works and Highways rest house in Bicol National Park in Tuaca, Basud with lush vegetation ideal for camping, hiking, mountaineering, and picnicking.

Media Infrastructure

There are three radio stations in Camarines Norte one of which is FM station. Among them are **DWKS-FM** (1 kw) of the Manila Broadcasting Company, **DZMD-AM** (5 kw) of the People's Broadcasting Network, and **DZVX-AM** (5 kw) of the New Sound Broadcasting Network, all based in Daet, Camarines Norte. The cable television systems are **STV-6, Skylink TV, and Mambulao CTV.**

The print media in the province are published in the capital town Daet. These are the following: **Action Balita** which comes out twice a month with a circulation of 2,500 copies; **Bicol Post** which comes out weekly with a circulation of 1,000 copies; and **Peninsula News**, weekly with 2,000 copies.

January 2001

PROVINCE OF CAMARINES NORTE

A PROFILE



REGION V

Developed by the
Philippine Information Agency
OPS

Camarines Norte



Camarines Norte derives its name from the Spanish word *camarin*, meaning rice granary or warehouse. The province was divided into two in 1829. The two new

provinces were united as Ambos Camarines on 1854 only to be separated again in 1887. Finally, Camarines Norte became an independent province in March 10, 1917 by virtue of the Philippine Legislative Act No. 2711. The province consists of 12 municipalities. These are: Basud, Capalonga, Jose Panganiban, Labo, Mercedes, Paracale, San Lorenzo Ruiz, San Vicente, Sta. Elena, Talisay, Vinzons, and Daet, the capital town. The province is spread over a land area of 2,112.5 square kilometers.

Geography & Climate

Camarines Norte is at the northwestern part of the Bicol peninsula. It is bounded on the north by the Pacific Ocean, on the east by the San Miguel Bay, on the southwest by Quezon, and on the south by Camarines Sur.

As part of Region V or the Bicol Region, a typhoon-studded area, Camarines Norte experiences hardly any dry season at all and with a very pronounced maximum rain from November to January.

Population & Language

Camarines Norte has a population of 439,151 (1995 statistics) with Bikol as the predominant language. The people in the province is known for their hospitality.



A private international seaport at barangay Osmeña, Jose Panganiban town.

Infrastructure

The province has an international seaport located at Barangay Osmeña, Jose Panganiban town servicing one of its major industries, Primo Oleochemicals Inc. The seaport is approximately five kilometers from the town proper and an hour ride to the capital town of Daet.

The province also has 13 fishing ports in the coastal municipalities and one feeder airport in Bagasbas, Daet.

Investment Areas

The four major investment areas in the province are fine jewelry, basketry, pineapple, and seaweed farming.

Camarines Norte has an abundant supply of gold and silver making it possible to establish the Camarines Norte Jewelry Training School and Production Center envisioned to produce professional workers in the art of jewelry making.

Raw materials used in the production of baskets such as ferns, grasses, herbs, palms, rushes, screwpines, vines, and other minor forest products abound in the province. Basketry is considered as a major product with significant employment opportunities and export sales for the province.

The famous variety of pineapple, the *formosa*, is grown extensively in Camarines Norte. The leaves, when processed, are the source of fiber clothing and handmade paper while the bagasse is used as food for livestock.

The pilot areas ideal for carrageenan/seaweed farming are Vinzons, Mercedes, Jose Panganiban, and Paracale. These areas are being targeted for production, and its realization will result to adequate supply of carrageenan/seaweeds which can be used as food and in the manufacture of different products like fertilizer, medicine, and gelatinous products.

Growth Centers

The Provincial Planning and Development Office proposed the establishment of economic zones in the municipalities of Daet, Labo, Sta. Elena, Paracale, Mercedes, and Jose Panganiban. The selection was based on the availability of raw materials and the presence of skilled and trainable manpower in the province.

Commerce & Industry

Although the province is predominantly agricultural, it has rich mining areas with abundant reserves of gold, iron, copper, uranium, lead, and zinc not to mention a thriving fishing industry. Hammock-



Farmers loading their produce, the famous *formosa* pineapple, to be marketed.



The Primo Oleochemicals, Inc., one of the major industries in the province.

making and buri-weaving are two of the more important cottage industries.

Water & Power Supply

The National Power Corporation through the Camarines Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CANORELCO) provides power and electricity to 209 of 237 barangays in the 12 municipalities of the province. Potable water is supplied by LWUA through the Camarines Norte Water District in seven municipalities namely Daet, Labo, Vinzons, Talisay, San Vicente, Mercedes, and Basud.

Telecommunication Facilities

North Camarines Telephone Company, Bayantel, Digitel, Labo Telephone System, PT&T, Smart, Mobiline, Globe Telecom, RCPI, and Bureau of Telecommunications serve the telecommunication and postal requirements of the people of Camarines Norte.

Apart from the provincewide communications network provided by the Bureau of Telecommunications (Butel), the people of the province are served by the North Camarines Telephone Company (Vinzons), Bayantel (Daet, Mercedes, Basud, and Vinzons), Digitel (Daet, Jose Panganiban, Talisay), the Labo Telephone System (Labo), PT&T (Labo,

Talisay, Vinzons, Mercedes, Basud, Daet), Smart (Daet, Talisay, part of Basud), and Globe Telecom (Daet and Talisay).

Accommodations & other Facilities

For the adventurers there are several hotels to choose from. The Alegre Hotel provides single and double beds in airconed and non-airconed rooms. The Mines Hotel has executive suites, aside from the economy and ordinary rooms, likewise the Hotel Mega Star and Canimog Hotel. The Dolor and Welton Hotel also offer single and double beds in airconed and non-airconed rooms. Most of these hotels are situated in Daet.

For those who prefer to get the people and its culture real well, they can avail of the province's homestay program called the *Tuloy po sa Amin*. It is a sharing of the province's greatest treasures - its people and their hospitality.

Tours & Transport

Philippine Airlines has flights to Daet every Tuesday and Thursday. Asian Spirit and light



The Labo River Control structure undergoing repair and maintenance.