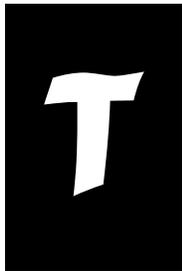


Chapter 5

SOCIOPOLITICAL SETTING

POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARIES



The province of Negros Oriental belongs to Region VII, grouped together with the other Cebuano-speaking provinces of Cebu, Bohol, and Siquijor located in the Central Visayas region of the Philippine archipelago (PPDO 1992). The profile area covers the 2 cities and 7 municipalities that are along the coast stretching from the municipality of Manjuyod in the north to the municipality of Dauin in the south and contains 72 coastal *barangays* for the profile area (Table 5.1) (Figure 5.1). There are 3 islands found in the profile area: Daco and Dewey Islands, under the jurisdiction of Bais City, and Apo Island, under the jurisdiction of Dauin. Daco Island is a peninsula of Bais attached to the main land by a narrow strip of land which divides Bais Bay into North and South bays. Daco Island has 4 *barangays* and Dewey Island, located in the North Bais Bay, has only 1 *barangay*. Apo Island also has only 1 *barangay*.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The total population of Negros Oriental in 1995 was 1,025,247 (NSO 1995). A total of 205,131 households and less than 1 percent of the population in the province live outside a household. The average annual growth rate for the province was 2.07 percent from 1990 to 1995, although the average annual growth rate for the profile area was 10.1 percent. The municipality in the profile area with the highest growth rate, 18.00 percent, is Bacong, but the most populous LGU in the profile area is Dumaguete City, which has a population of 92,637 and a growth rate of 15.40 percent.

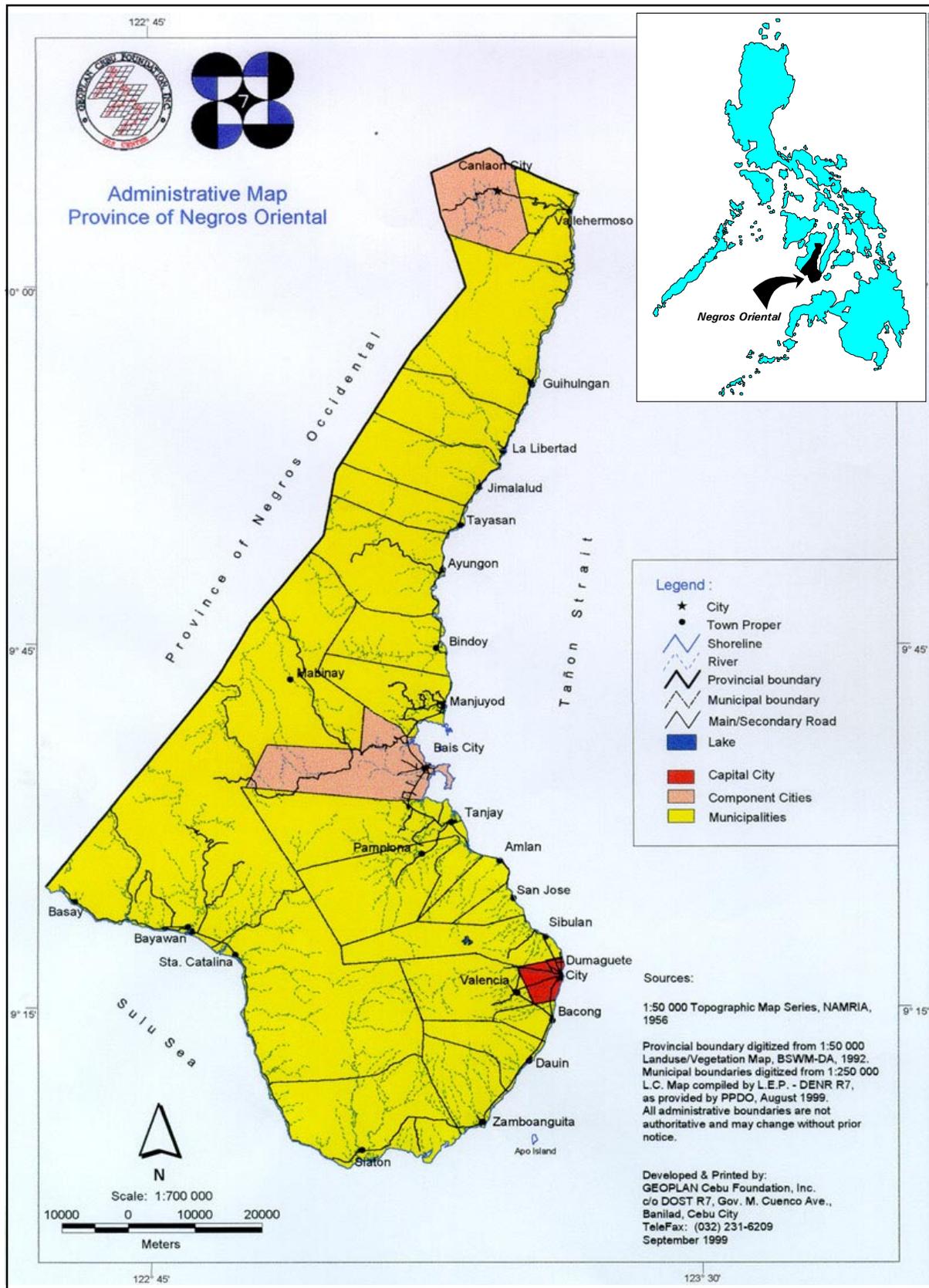


Figure 5.1. Negros Oriental administrative map.

Table 5.1. Population distribution per municipality/city.

Municipality/ City	Total population (as of 1995)	Population of coastal <i>barangays</i> (as of 1995)	Projected total population (by 2002)	Population density (person/km ²)	Projected by 2002	Number of households (as of 1995)
Manjuyod	34,545	13,212	40,098	131	152	589
Bais	63,355	15,286	70,672	200	223	11,061
Tanjay	65,634		70,455	122	131	11,747
Amlan	16,573	10,965	17,383	279	157	3,086
San Jose	14,952	6,877	18,348	275	293	2,384
Sibulan	31,206	14,348	37,577	191	231	5,307
Dumaguete	92,637	35,599	115,078	1,660	2,062	15,222
Bacong	19,177	9,076	24,029	767	961	3,460
Dauin	19,609	9,420	22,911	172	201	3,646
Siaton	57,313	39,860	70,590	201	210	9,596

The province has a density of 171.28 people/km². In the profile area, the average household size is 5 and over 90 percent of the population live in single unit houses (NSO 1995). The urban population in the province showed a small increase of 5 percent between 1980 and 1990, although 1 municipality in the profile area, Amlan, showed a dramatic increase of 16.50 percent.

In 1995, children 14 years old and below, comprised 39.82 percent (408,223) of the population and those 65 years old and older comprised 4.04 percent of the population. Since 1970, the number of people in the productive age group (15-64) has increased, as has the number of people over the age of 65, although the increase has been greater in the productive age group, 6.22 percent and 1.21 percent, respectively. Therefore, not only is the population getting older, but the number of people dependent on the productive age group is decreasing (PPDO 1999).

In many respects, the population of the province is rather homogeneous: 99.8 percent are Filipino citizens; 82 percent are Roman Catholic; and more than 95 percent of the population speak Cebuano (PPDO 1999). The majority of the population also understand Tagalog (Filipino) and English, the 2 national languages. Most of the local television programs and movies are in Tagalog and English has been the medium of instruction in most, if not all, of the schools, universities, and other institutions of higher learning within the profile area (PPDO 1999).

HEALTH, SANITATION, AND MEDICAL CARE

Health facilities are scattered throughout the profile area and it is estimated that about 70 percent of the people in the province are able to benefit from the health services that are available. These facilities are composed of hospitals, rural health units, *barangay* health stations, municipal health stations/centers, and private clinics (Table 5.2). Primary, secondary, and tertiary care are available in the province, although there is only 1 public tertiary

hospital, Negros Oriental Provincial Hospital. Two of the 3 private hospitals, Silliman University and Holy Child Hospital, provide tertiary care, while the third private hospital, Central Azucarera de Bais (CAB), only provides primary care (PPDO 1999). The 5 hospitals operating within the profile area have 300-400 bed-capacities.

Table 5.2. Health service facilities in the profile area.

Types of health facilities	Number	Location
Rural health unit	1	Each LGU has a a rural health unit
Maternity/family planning clinic	2	Amlan, Bais City
Municipal health station/center	16	Bais City (one per <i>barangay</i>), Manjuyod, Sibulan, Tanjay City
<i>Barangay</i> health unit	39	Amlan, Bacong, Manjuyod, Sibulan, Tanjay City
Private clinics	19	Bais City, Tanjay City, Dumaguete City
Hospitals	5	Bais City, Dumaguete City

Communicable diseases, such as upper respiratory tract infection, pneumonia, gastrointestinal diseases, influenza, parasitism, pulmonary tuberculosis and typhoid fever, were the leading causes of illness in the province from 1990 to 1995. Moreover, pneumonia and septicemia were the leading causes of infant mortality. Malnutrition was a problem in the province as well. In 1996, 11.0 percent of the province suffered from malnutrition and the 5-year average from 1991 to 1995 was 16.2 percent. In addition, malaria and dengue fever are endemic to the province. Malaria is declining and not present in most areas, while dengue fever is increasing (PPDO 1998).

As of 1995, an estimated 36,505 households (28 percent) in the province do not have access to potable water and 45,785 (22 percent) do not have sanitary excreta disposal facilities. There are no sewerage systems in the province, although residences are required to maintain on-lot septic tank systems. Solid waste disposal is a problem in all municipalities and cities, including Dumaguete City and Bais City, the only 2 places that have their own solid waste disposal sites (PPDO 1998).

EDUCATION AND LITERACY

Education is a high priority in the Philippines. By Presidential decree, every *barangay* is supposed to have an elementary school. Although Negros Oriental is working towards this goal and there are more elementary schools than *barangays* in the province, not all the *barangays* in the hinterlands have elementary schools. In addition, many of the elementary schools are not complete and often it is necessary to have mixed grade classes because there are not enough teachers. Elementary school participation is high; for school year 1996-97, the participation rate in the public elementary schools was 88.22 percent and the drop-out rate was 3.81 percent. The secondary schools participation rate was substantially lower and the drop-out rate was more than double that of the elementary

schools, 27.94 percent and 10.60 percent, respectively. The total enrollment, both public and private in the province for the 1996-97 school year was 170,306 students for the elementary school level and 43,065 students for the secondary level out of a school age population (ages 7-24) of 393,923 based on the 1995 census (DECS 1997).

There are a number of higher learning institutions in the province: 10 colleges, 1 state college, and 2 universities. These institutions offer a wide variety of courses across many disciplines, including graduate level courses. Vocational and technical training is also available, although these facilities are primarily located in Dumaguete (PPDO 1999).

Despite the opportunities for education within the province, nearly 78 percent of the labor force have not graduated from the secondary level of education. Out of a labor force of 501,000, only 129,601 have graduated from high school and even fewer, 39,538, hold academic degrees (Five-Year Provincial Development and Investment Plan). For the province, the literacy rate for the household population over the age of 10 is 88.77 percent (780,279), evenly split between males and females (PPDO 1999).

RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC GROUPS

Roman Catholics are 82 percent of the population of the province. The Philippine Independent Church (Aglipay) and the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) comprise 6 percent of the total populace. The Iglesia ni Cristo account for only 1 percent while the most of the other religions comprise 5 percent of the provincial population (PPDO 1999).

Ethnic groups are living in the hinterland of the province. In 1991-92, the local Office of the Southern Cultural Communities (OSCC) lists 460 heads of families belonging to 5 tribes in different locations within the province and the profile area (Table 5.3).

Table 5.3. Ethnic groups within the province and the profile area.

Ethnic Group	Location
Bukidnon	Mountains of Basay, Bayawan, Mabinay
Magahat	Mabinay, Bais, Tanjay, Ayungon
Carol-anon	Ayungon (Barangay Carol-an area)
Ati	Canlaon City area
Ata or Agta	Manjuyod

Source: PPDO (1999)

Dialects

Within the profile area, there are 3 dialects spoken by most of the populace. Cebuano, is the most widely spoken dialect. Hiligaynon, which is commonly known as Ilonggo is spoken only in the southernmost municipalities not covered under the profile area as well the Occidental region of the province (5.4). Tagalog is understood by a large majority of the population since most of the local programs (TV and movies) use the Tagalog (Filipino)

Table 5.4. Dialects spoken by households in the profile area.

Dialects	Percent of Households	Population
Cebuano	95.3	168,348
Hiligaynon	4.7	7,575
Filipino	no data	no data
Total	100	175,923

Source: NSO (1995)

dialect. English as influenced by communication facilities e.g. movies, radio, and publications has been the medium of instruction in most if not all of the schools and universities and other institutions of higher learning within the profile area.

Infrastructure

Electricity

Power in Negros Oriental is provided by 3 geothermal plants and 1 hydroelectric plant in Amlan (PPDO 1999). In addition to serving Negros Island, the geothermal plant at the foot of Cuernos de Negros also supplies electric power to Panay and Cebu (PPDO 1999). However, by 1997, only 339 out of the 557 *barangays* in the 25 cities and municipalities in the province have electricity, giving power to less than half (42 percent) of the households in the province.

Communications

There are many modern communication facilities, such as internet cafes, facsimile machines and cellular phone sites, available in the profile area, though these are mainly concentrated in Dumaguete City. In addition, it is possible to receive local, national, and international news and entertainment from newspapers, radio, and television. Each municipality has a government post office, radiophones, telegram stations, and a municipal telephone system and several municipalities are also serviced by private courier companies. However, many people within the profile area are without telephone service; the regional telephone density is 1.996 telephones/100 people. Therefore, radiophone communication networks are necessary to provide service to areas that could not be reached by telegraph or telephones.

Transportation

The primary means of inter-municipality transportation are passenger jeeps, buses, and tricycles. Even in Bais City and Dumaguete City, only 8 percent of the population own private vehicles. The roadways in the province cover a total of 1,490,768 km and are mainly gravel; less than a quarter are paved with asphalt or concrete. However, the road along the coast is paved and in good condition, allowing for easier transportation of passengers and goods between the profile area municipalities. Although there are a number of bridges connecting the coastal towns within the profile area, more bridges are still needed to access rural areas (PPDO 1999).

Although the Dumaguete City Airport, classified as a trunkline airport, is the alternate international airport to Cebu International Airport and has daily service to Manila and Cebu, the majority of inter-island transport occurs via the sea. Dumaguete is the major seaport in the profile area and is classified by the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) as a primary seaport. Of the 3 government ports and the small number of privately owned ports, the Dumaguete port receives the most passengers and vessel calls per year, but combined, the private ports handle more metric tons of cargo (Table 5.5). Of the government ports, Dumaguete Port also has the most extensive infrastructure, with a roll-on roll-off ramp; a container yard and a passenger terminal. Passenger traffic has increased markedly since 1992 due to the entry of fast ferries to the Dumaguete Port and construction is currently underway to expand the port. The fast ferries offer daily service to Dipolog, Cagayan de Oro City, Tagbilaran City, Cebu City, and Siquijor province. Other passenger boats to Manila, Cebu, Iloilo, and Mindanao are also available.

Table 5.5. Total vessel, passenger, and cargo arrivals for 1996.

Ports	Vessels	Passengers	Cargo (mt)
Dumaguete Port	6,317	1,008,532	435,011
Tandayag Port, Amlan	5,053	327,011	96,569
Guihulngan Port	1,295	128,471	540
Private ports	2,554	11,579	540,356
Total	15,219	1,475,593	1,072,476

Source: PPDO (1999)

The 2 other government ports in the province, Tandayag Port in Amlan and Guihulngan Municipal Port, are classified as tertiary ports. Privately owned ports are mostly owned by factories and processing plants operating within the profile area. These are the Dyno-Wesfarmers Port and the Dumaguete Coconut Oil Mill Inc. in Bacong, the fuel depot ports of Petron, Shell, and Caltex oil companies in Amlan, and the Universal Robina Sugar Milling Company in Manjuyod.

The profile area still faces the need to develop its basic infrastructure. More roads and bridges need to be built; access to potable water and electricity needs to be improved; and more health and sanitation facilities are required to prevent the spread of diseases. Efforts to increase the participation in secondary level education must be taken to improve the skills of the labor force. With the need for such basic infrastructure development, local governments may believe that they cannot afford to invest in coastal resource management. The link needs to be drawn between a clean, healthy environment and an improved welfare of the community.

There are 3 major land routes connecting the province of Negros Oriental to the Occidental province. The shortest route passes through the interior town of Mabinay approximately 30 km from Bais City. This route cuts through the mountain boundary and

goes down to Kabankalan, Negros Occidental all the way to San Carlos and Bacolod City, Negros Occidental. The third route passes the southern coastal towns of Siaton and Basay then Hinoba-an, Negros Oriental. Road length inventory for the province for the year 1991 is shown in Table 5.6 (PPDO 1992).

Table 5.6. Road length inventory for Negros Oriental as of 1991.

Category of roads	Total	Types of pavement (km)			
		Concrete	Asphalt	Gravel	Earth
Total	3,231.63		334.416	1,160.46	1,673.17
National	336.305	57.576	153.054	131.02	
Provincial	293.47	52.231	33.36	180.81	79.3
City	76.45		40.182	16.765	18.045
Municipal	185.411	1.755	63.921	64.815	56.675
Barangay	1,416.88		10.512	724.62	681.744
National Aid Provincial	29.42		2.68	19.27	7.47
National Aid City	50.066	2.99	23.916	23.16	

Source: PPDO (1991)

SUMMARY

Negros Oriental has a densely populated coastal area with a growth rate of more than 2 percent, about the Philippine average. The cities are growing faster at more than 10 percent per year. Population management and health care are priority problems. The province has relatively good infrastructure because of its geothermal electricity and coastal highway system.