

KALIBO PROFILE

Kalibo has been a waypoint for overland and air travelers for years. It is now asserting its rightful role as the Western Visayas sub-center. It has benefitted significantly from the tourist influx and global awards garnered by the annual Kalibo Señor Sto. Niño Ati-atihan Festival and from the incidental tourist traffic to and from the Paradise Island of Boracay.

Kalibo is the educational, commerce, trade, and tourism center in the premier Province of Aklan. Its total road network is 148.96 kilometers: 13.12 kilometers for the national road, 18.71 kilometers for the provincial road, 14.92 kilometers for the municipal road, 86.14 kilometers for the barangay road, and 16.08 kilometers for the subdivision road.

For the past years, through the indispensable role, support, cooperation, and participation of the people from various sectors of the community, Kalibo has been recognized and has become a multi-awarded municipality. It has garnered international, national, regional, and local awards, citations, recognitions, appreciations, commendations, and other meritorious certifications.

History of Kalibo

According to J.E. Barrios and E.A. Lerona's historical research "*Calivo: The Founding of Town*," Kalibo is the capital of the province of Aklan, one of the four provinces that make up the island of Panay, the Philippines' sixth largest island.

Although Aklan is the oldest province in history, it is a relatively new province in the Philippine Atlas, having been recognized only after its separation from Capiz.

Antique borders the province of Aklan on the west, Capiz on the south, the Sulu Sea on the northwest, and the Sibuyan Sea on the east. It covers 192,190 hectares and is divided into seventeen towns and 327 barangays.

During the Spanish occupation, Aklan was merged with adjacent towns to form the province of Capiz. Capiz was declared a political-military province on May 31, 1837, while Aklan became a province in 1956, by Republic Act No. 1414 signed by President Ramon Magsaysay on April 25, 1956.

The province was established on November 8, 1956, with the municipality of Kalibo as its capital. From the arrival of the Spaniards in 1569 until the early 1600s, the names Aklan and Calivo were interchangeably used to refer to the town. Calibo, Daclan, Adan, and Calibog are some of the other names and/or spellings that have been used.

According to Roman A. de la Cruz, the town (Kalibo) was originally known among the locals as "Akean," coined from the name of the nearby river. The word "akean" conjures up images of gushing water. It is derived from the word "akae," which means "to boil." "Akae-akae" means "to bubble or to boil." It could be the sound of a river's current murmuring in the shallows during a dry summer.

Dominadorillo agrees, claiming that "akae" is the Aklanon word for bubbling or boiling. "Akean" is a contraction of the word "akaeon," which means "to bubble or boil."

How the town got its present name is based on similar stories passed down from generations. In Fr. Gaspar de San Agustin's book *Conquistas de las Islas Filipinas*, he noted that Father Juan de Alba baptized one thousand natives of Kalibo in 1569: "...y poreste se llama el pueblo Calivo, que significa mil..." (... and that is why the place is called Calivo, which means one thousand...).

Since the term Aclan pertains to a river, the Spanish missionaries spelled "Akean" as "Aclan" and eventually changed it to "Calivo." This is in line with Fr. Juan Fernandez's statement that *"there were at first one thousand inhabitants in this town, thus it was named 'Calibo,' which means 'one thousand,' and this name has lasted till the present."*

When Miguel Lopez de Legazpi and Juan Salcedo were at Pan-ay in 1569, the Aclanons and Ibahainons sought their help against attacks made by "wild natives" and residents of Mindoro, "who destroyed, looted, and bewitched the inhabitants." Legazpi and Salcedo pacified Aclan and Ibajay with the support of five hundred Aclanons.

They then pursued the aggressors to Mamburao (in Mindoro). Following a blood contract with Salcedo, the Mindoro chief pledged to never bother Aclan and Ibajay again. Fr. Alba gloriously defeated the prestige of the babailanes among their followers who worshipped the goddesses Macabantu during this period when Salcedo was defeating the foes of Aklan and Ibajay. This was when Fr. Alba converted and baptized the 1,000 souls from whence the name Calivo rose.

Despite Calivo having initially had 1,000 individuals baptized, it was not until 1581 that actual missionary work began. Following this, the Spaniards proceeded to the island of Lucon (Luzon), where they captured Manila from Chinese pirates and made it the capital of the Philippines on June 24, 1571.

Meanwhile, Fr. Alba, the priest who converted the thousand Calivonhons, did not stay long in Calivo since he was assigned to Dumangas. Calivo was only made a parish on April 22, 1571.

Physical Features

1. Area and Geographical Location

The Municipality of Kalibo is particularly located at the center of all coastal municipalities of Aklan, where the huge Aklan River has its mouth. It is bounded on the North by the Sibuyan Sea, on the South by the Municipality of Banga, on the West by the Municipalities of Lezo and Numancia, and on the East by the Municipality of New Washington. It has a cadastral location of North to South between 11°40'22" N and 11°40'00" S longitude, from West to East between 122°20'27" W and 122°25'00" E latitude.

2. Political Subdivisions

Based on the recent cadastral survey conducted by the Land Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources which was approved last October 5, 2005, the Municipality of Kalibo has a total land area of 5,075 hectares or 50.75 square kilometers with a total population of 85,434 in 2015 having a population growth rate of 1.80% and a population density of 5.24 persons/hectare. It shows that Kalibo is the center of the sixteen (16) municipalities and political, social, economic, and religious activities.

Land Area by Barangay

Barangays	Land Area	% of Total
Andagao	318.8	6.28
Bakhaw Norte	424.03	8.36
Bakhaw Sur	300.67	5.92
Briones	200.19	3.94
Buswang New	349.50	6.89
Buswang Old	296.22	5.84
Caano	280.73	5.53
Estancia	364.68	7.19
Linabuan Norte	320.24	6.31
Mabilo	225.44	4.44
Mobo	482.63	9.51
Nalook	395.56	7.79
Poblacion	91.05	1.79
Pook	474.26	9.35
Tigayon	445.55	8.78
Tinigaw	105.45	2.08
Total	5,075.00	100.00

Source: LGU Kalibo OMPDC

3. Land Classification

- Alienable and Disposable Lands* – The entire Municipality of Kalibo is classified as Alienable and Disposable (A & D) land. However, there are identified mangrove sites along the coastal area.
- Timberland* – The protected Mangrove Area, the Mangrove Reforestation Project of the municipality located at Barangays Bakhaw Sur, Buswang Old and Buswang New which started on January 30, 1990, with an initial area of 50 hectares and has expanded to around 98 hectares after 15 years of existence due to natural regeneration and additional planting.

Kalibo takes pride in the implementation of its *Mangrove Reforestation Project* and in the great success story of transforming mudflats into a productive and diverse mangrove forest jointly undertaken by the Department of Environment and Natural

Resources (DENR) and the LGU Kalibo. It has grown and flourished over time under the stewardship of Kalibo Save the Mangrove Association (KASAMA), a community-based association charged to take care of the project, *Wildlife Sanctuary*. Within the declared mangrove reserve in Barangay Buswang New, a 20-hectare wildlife sanctuary was established. This serves as a home for birds and other animals that rely on the blessings of nature.

4. Topography

Kalibo being the capital town of Aklan and the center of business and institution of the province and neighboring provinces in Region VI has a geographical location of the north to south between 11o40'22" N and 11o40'00" N and from west to east between 122o20'27" and 122o25'22" E. It lies on the northeastern border of the province and therefore is bounded on the northeast by the Sibuyan Sea. It is bordered on the southeast by the municipality of New Washington on the southwest by Banga, on the west by Lezo, and the northwest by Numancia. The whole area of Kalibo is plain and generally flat.

Kalibo being plains are large, flat pieces of land with no drastic elevation. Tigayon Hill is the sole hill of Kalibo which is situated at Barangay Tigayon and favors rapid economic and urbanization growth. This is characterized by intensive agriculture and a high density of urban development.

Kalibo has a wetland that includes swamps, bogs, and marshes. The mangrove of this municipality is one of the examples of plants in our wetland which is located at Barangay Buswang New.

Kalibo is inclined to flooding because of the presence of the Aklan River. The rivers are important for transporting and depositing sediments, a product of erosion. A river cuts both downwards and sideways to shape and form wide valleys and deep canyons. The faster the river current's velocity and the courser the sediment it carries, the deeper and wider the valley or canyon becomes.

5. Hazards and Risks

The Municipality of Kalibo is prone to three (3) hazards, namely: rain-induced landslide, flooding, and 5-meter storm surge. The barangays that are susceptible to rain-induced landslides are near the Aklan River and creeks such as the barangays of Mobo and Tigayon.

Portions of Barangay Linabuan Norte and Tigayon are prone to rain-induced landslides.

Kalibo, being relatively flat and with the presence of the big body of water, the Aklan River, makes the area very high flood susceptibility. Areas are likely to experience flood heights of greater than 2.0 meters and/or flood duration of more than 3 days. These areas are immediately flooded during heavy rains of several hours and are also prone to flash flooding. Areas with very high susceptibility to flooding are portions near the Aklan River namely the barangays of portion Linabuan Norte, Bachao Norte, Bachao Sur, Poblacion, Mobo, Tinigaw, Caano, Pook, a portion of Old Buswang, New Buswang and Tigayon.

The areas that are likely to experience flood heights of 1.0 to 2.0 meters and or flood duration of more than 3 days are categorized as high flood susceptibility areas such as experienced flood are portions of Briones, Nalook, Estancia, Tigayon, Tinigao, Andagao, Mabilo, and Pook.

The barangays of Kalibo along the Sibuyan Sea are highly susceptible to a 5-meter storm surge. These are the barangays of Andagao, Mabilo, Caano, Pook, Buswang New, Buswang Old, Bakhaw Sur and Bakhaw Norte and portion of Briones. Barangays with moderate and low susceptibility to storm surges are portions of Pook, Andagao, Estancia, Briones, and Bachao Norte.

Local officials especially the personnel that comprise the Municipal Disaster Risk Management Office conduct massive information dissemination and drills to the residents of the municipality especially those who would most likely be affected by these hazards to prepare them.

6. Climate

Based on the records from the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), Kalibo has uneven periods of rainfall throughout the year. There are two (2) pronounced seasons in the area—the wet seasons and dry seasons which determine agricultural activities during harvest time for crops. It is relatively dry from February to June and wet during the rest of the year. The heaviest downpour occurs during the months of September to January. There were uneven rainfalls documented based on the PAGASA record on the average effective rainfall from CY 2010 to CY 2018. The coolest months are December and February while the warmest is from March to June. A considerable number of tropical cyclones visited the area which mostly occurs during the months starting from the last week of June until December.

7. Kalibo Town Capitanes to Mayor

Term of Office	Name
1521	Juan Matangga
1571	Antonio Popes
1668	Miguel Lalisan
1721	Juan Hilario
1778	Miguel Roldan
1785	Protacio Lachica
1789	Leonardo Roldan
1889	Magdaleno Concepcion
1890 – 1900	Francisco Tansinco Mañas
1895 – 1898	Vicente Laserna
1900	Nazarino B. Roldan
1900	Maximo R. Roldan
1900	Catalino Mabasa
1900 – 1901	Natalio B. Acevedo
1902 – 1903	Segundo Martelino
1904 - 1909	Cirilio R. Laserna, Sr.
1909 – 1912	Procopio Urquiola
1912	Jacinto Repieddad

1910 – 1912	Emiliano B. Acevedo
1913 – 1916	Simeon Mobo Reyes
1916 – 1919	Emiliano B. Acevedo
1919 – 1922	Luis S. Barrios
1922 – 1925	Cenon M. Quimpo
1925 – 1928	Juan Concepcion
1928 – 1936	Fortunato M. Quimpo
November 1930 – January 1932	Juan G. Fernandez
1931 – 1933	Julio Magno
1933 – 1936	Gregorio I. Pastrana
December 31, 1936	Juan Aguirre
	Godofredo Martelino
1937 – 1939	Salvador V. Peralta
1940 – 1947	Rustico S. Quimpo
1948 – 1951	Ludovico O. Peralta
1952 – 1959	Desposorio M. Maagma, Sr.
1960 – 1980	Federico O. Icamina
March 20, 1980 – March 1986	Wilihado C. Regalado
March 21, 1986 – January 11, 1987	Juan P. Dayang
January 12, 1987 – February 1, 1988	Rene D. Enriquez
February 1, 1988 – March 22, 1992	Allen S. Quimpo
March 23, 1992 – June 30, 1992	Nilda B. Tambong
July 1, 1992 – June 30, 2001	Diego M. Luces
July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2010	Raymar A. Rebaldo
July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2019	William S. Lachica
July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022	Emerson S. Lachica
July 1, 2022 - Present	Juris B. Sucro