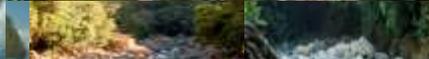


# Profile of the Province of



● Concepcion  
*Maestre de Campo Is.*

● Banton  
*Banton Is.*

# ROMBLON



## I. History

The Negritos were the aborigines of the islands comprising the province of Romblon. The Mangyans were the first settlers. Today, these groups of inhabitants are almost extinct with only a few scattered remnants of their descendants living in the mountain of Tablas and in the interior of Sibuyan Island. A great portion of the present population descended from the Nayons and the Onhans who immigrated to the islands from Panay and the Bicol and Tagalogs who came from Luzon as early as 1870.

The Spanish historian Loarca was the first who genuinely explored its settlements when he visited the islands in 1582. At that time Tablas Island was named "Osingan" and together with the other islands of the group were under the administrative jurisdiction of Arevalo (Iloilo).

From the beginning of Spanish sovereignty up to 1635, the islands were administered by secular clergy. When the Recollect Fathers arrived in Romblon, they found some of the inhabitants already converted to Christianity. In 1637, the Recollects established seven missionary centers at Romblon, Badajos (San Agustin), Cajidiocan, Banton, Looc, Odiongan and Magallanes (Magdiwang).

In 1646, the Dutch attacked the town of Romblon and inflicted considerable damage. However, this was insignificant compared with the injuries that the town of Romblon and other towns in the province sustained in the hands of the Moros, as the Muslims of Mindanao were then called during the Moro depredation, when a good number of inhabitants were held captives. In order to protect its people from further devastation, the Recollect Fathers built a fort in the Island of Romblon in 1650 and another in Banton Island.

Politically, Romblon was separated from the jurisdiction of Arevalo (Iloilo) and annexed to Capiz, when that province was created in 1716. In 1853, the islands were organized into a politico-military commandancia administered from Capiz and continued to be so until the end of the Spanish rule in 1898.

In 1898, Romblon was under an army officer with the rank of captain. The town of Romblon was its capital and the other municipalities were Azagra, Badajos (now San Agustin), Banton (named Jones from 1916 to 1929), Cajidiocan, Corcuera, Looc, Magallanes (now Magdiwang), Odiongan, Despujols (now San Andres) and Santa Fe. For sometime, during the second phase of the Philippine Revolution, the province, as part of Capiz, was under the control of General Macario Diego de Dios, head of the Filipino Revolutionary Forces in the Visayas during the Philippine-American War.

Upon the restoration of peace and order in the province, a civil government was established by the Americans on March 16, 1901.

Romblon was created as a regular province in 1901 but due to insufficient income, it became a sub-province of Capiz in 1907 until December 7, 1917 when Act No. 2724 reestablished the former province of Romblon. Under Commonwealth Act No. 581, enacted without executive approval on June 8, 1940, the province was reorganized with four towns, namely: Tablas (embracing Odiongan, Looc, Badajos, Sta. Fe and Despujols), Romblon (comprising Logbon, Cobrador and Alad), Banton (involving

Simara and Maestre de Campo), and Sibuyan (with the towns of Cajidiocan, Magdiwang and San Fernando).

The Japanese Imperial Forces maintained a garrison in Romblon during World War II from 1942 until the Naval Battle of Sibuyan on October 25, 1945. To be exact, Romblon was occupied by Japanese forces on March 21, 1942. The islands became the center of considerable resistance movement under the direction of General Macario Peralta, Jr. from his Panay headquarters. One of the most exciting incidents of the Pacific War took place in the waters of Romblon, the Naval – Air Battles between Japanese Admiral Kurita’s Fleet from Singapore and Admiral Halsey’s carrier planes from the American Third Fleet then stationed east of the Philippines.

The province of Romblon was liberated on March 12, 1945 by units of the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division under the command of Col. Clifford. On January 1, 1947, Romblon regained her provincial status through the passage of RA No. 38, sponsored by Cong. Modesto Formilleza.

### **How Romblon Got Its Name**

A legendary tale tells of how Romblon got its name. When Loarca’s expedition touched sand in Romblon, one of the soldiers rumbled in the beach. Tired of strolling, he felt thirsty, went up a house and asked for a drink. The low-built hut where he went up was a primitive one-room shelter. Inside it was a hen’s nest somewhere at the top of a post near the window. A hen was hatching eggs therein. The Castilian soldier inquired if he could get the chicken for free. The house occupant, a young woman, did not comprehend what the visitor said so she answered in the dialect “nagalomlom”, meaning the chicken was brooding. Perplexed, the Spanish soldier left the house muttering in disgust the word “nagalomlom”. Then when he returned to the ship he was asked where he had been and he answered mockingly - “nagalomlom”. When the Iberians left, they named the island “Nagalomlom” until it was corrupted to Domblon, and later on modified to Romblon.

Since then, the group of islands scattered in the surrounding water area was named Romblon.

## **II. Geo-Physical Environment**

Romblon is strategically situated at the center of the Philippine Archipelago. It is composed of three major islands (Tablas, Sibuyan and Romblon) and seventeen minor and small islands. It is surrounded by deep waters, and is bounded by the islands of Masbate in the east, Mindoro in the west, Marinduque in the north and Panay in the south. It is approximately 187 nautical miles and 169 air miles south of Manila. The islands are dispersed and accessible only by sea transportation except for Tablas Island where a domestic airport is located in the municipality of Alcantara.

The total land area of the province is approximately 1,355.9 sq. km. representing about 5.30 percent of the total land area of Region IV-B (MIMAROPA). Of its seventeen municipalities, nine are located in Tablas Island (San Agustin, Calatrava, San Andres, Odiongan, Ferrol, Santa Fe, Looc, Alcantara and Santa Maria), three in Sibuyan Island (Magdiwang, Cajidiocan and San Fernando) and five (Romblon, San Jose, Banton, Concepcion and Corcuera) are island municipalities.

The province is generally mountainous with about forty percent of its land area having slopes greater than 50 percent. Only four percent of the total area has 3 to 8 percent slopes while a sparse ten percent has 0 to 3 percent inclination. Narrow strips of coastal lowlands, low hills and plains typify the topography of some of the islands.

Romblon Island is hilly with a maximum elevation of about 400 meters (1,312 feet) above sea level. Its inclines are classified into the following six percent (6%) of the island has grades from 0 to 3%, thirty percent (30%) from 8 to 30% while the rest of the islands have slants over 30%.

Tablas Island shows varied relief characteristics. The western coastal areas are level to undulating while the eastern coastal areas are rough to rugged. The southern section covering Santa Fe and the mid-western portion maybe described as having rolling to rough terrain. Extremely rugged areas can be found in the central section of the island. The highest elevation is almost 500 meters (1,640 feet) above sea level.

Sibuyan Island is a thickly forested mountain mass. The western portion of the island maybe characterized as extensively rugged, having ascents of 60% or more while the eastern section is relatively undulating to rolling. Twelve percent (12%) of Sibuyan's land area has slopes of 0 to 8% while sixty-two percent (62%) rises exceeding 50%. The highest elevation, the peak of Mt. Guiting-guiting, reaches about 2,058 meters (6,750 feet) above sea level.

The major locations of areas that are highly productive and buildable are basically in Tablas and Sibuyan. In Tablas, these maybe found in Odiongan, San Andres, Looc and Santa Fe. All three municipalities in Sibuyan Island on the other hand, have substantial level to gently sloping lands. Over-all, good developable lands represents only about 13 percent of the province's total area.

The province of Romblon falls under Type III of the Corona's climatic classification system. It is characterized by no pronounced wet and dry seasons. Generally, the wet season is from June to November and sometimes extends up to December when the southwest monsoon is predominant. The dry season is from January to May that is sometimes interrupted by erratic rainfall.

### **III. Population and Social Environment**

Based on the 2010 Census of Population and Housing, the province of Romblon posted a total population of 283,930 persons as of May 1, 2010. This is larger by 19,573 persons compared to its population of 264,357 recorded during the 2000 CPH. The increase in population count of 2000-2010 translated to an annual population growth rate (PGR) of 0.72percent. This is lower than the 1.51 percent annual PGR of the province between the census years 1990 and 2000. If the annual population growth rate of 0.72 percent during the period 2000 to 2010 will continue, the population of Romblon would double in 98 years. The 0.72 percent PGR means that almost seven persons are added for every 1000 persons in the population.

Fifty years ago, the population of Romblon is only 131,658 persons. This population size is less than one-half the population of the province during the 2010 CPH

The municipality of San Jose posted the highest growth rate at 2.27 percent, while Ferrol came in second with 1.39 percent. Magdiwang and Odiongan were in close third and fourth with 1.22 and 1.12 percent, respectively. Meanwhile, the three municipalities of the "Maghali" group of islands posted a negative growth rate. Bantonhas -1.26, Corcuera has -0.99, and Concepcion has -0.52 percent.

Table 1. Demographic Features by Municipality, 2010

Municipality	Estimated Land Area (sq. km.)	Population	Population Density (per sq. km.)	Population Growth Rate (2000-2010)
1. Alcantara	71.9	15,428	214.58	0.87
2. Banton	28.3	5,963	210.71	-1.26
3. Cajidiocan	161.4	21,198	131.34	0.91
4. Calatrava	86.7	9,776	112.76	0.97
5. Concepcion	23.3	4,445	190.77	-0.52
6. Corcuera	23.4	9,935	424.57	-0.99
7. Looc	68.7	21,841	317.92	0.94
8. Magdiwang	111.9	13,584	121.39	1.22
9. Odiongan	137.9	43,676	316.72	1.12
10. Romblon	127.1	37,995	298.94	0.37
11. San Agustin	78.59	22,116	281.41	0.22
12. San Andres	75.5	15,028	199.05	1.11
13. San Fernando	190.1	22,466	118.18	0.58
14. San Jose	28.9	10,294	356.19	2.27
15. Santa Fe	66.1	15,700	237.52	1.05
16. Ferrol	32.3	6802	210.39	1.39
17. Santa Maria (Imelda)	43.81	7,683	175.37	0.48
<b>Province Total</b>	<b>1,355.90</b>	<b>283,930</b>	<b>209.40</b>	<b>0.72</b>

Source: NSO, 2010 Census of Population and Housing

Table 1 shows that the province of Romblon posted a population density of 209.4. This means that, on the average, there are almost 210 persons living in an area of one (1) square kilometer. The island-municipalities of Corcuera and San Jose are the two most-densely populated municipalities in the province by posting a population density of 424.6 and 356.2, respectively.

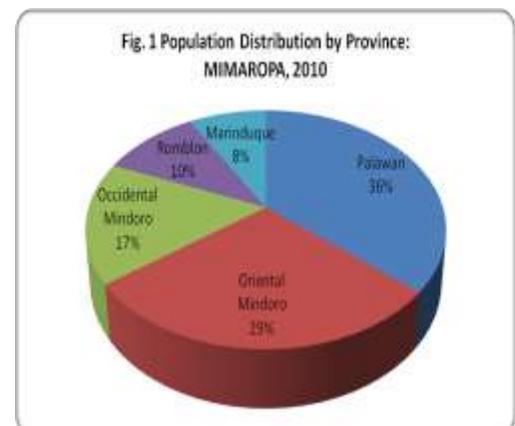
On the other hand, Calatrava and San Fernando are the two least densely-populated municipalities by registering a population density of 112.8 and 118.2, respectively.

### Romblon ranked 4th in population size in MIMAROPA

Among the five provinces of MIMAROPA region, Romblon's population has consistently ranked 4<sup>th</sup> for the three consecutive censuses of 2000, 2007 and 2010. It had 10.34 percent of the region's population as per result of the 2010 CPH.

Palawan was at the top with 994,340 (including Puerto Princesa) or 36 percent, Oriental Mindoro has 785,602 or 29 percent, Occidental Mindoro has 452,971 or 17 percent while Marinduque has 227,828 or 8 percent of the region's population.

Among the seventeen (17) municipalities in the province of Romblon, Odiongan had the largest population with 43,676. The municipality of Romblon, the capital town, had the second largest population with 37,995 and San Fernando had the third largest with 22,466.



The municipalities of San Agustin, Looc and Cajidiocan have posted a population more than 20 thousand. San Agustin had 22,116, Looc had 21,841 and Cajidiocan had 21,198.

The combined population of the five municipalities of Odiongan, Romblon, San Fernando, San Agustin and Looc accounted for more than one-half (52.15 percent) of the total provincial population.

The municipalities of Concepcion and Banton were the two least populated areas in the province. The population of Concepcion (4,445) and Banton (5,963) accounted for only 1.56 and 2.1 percent, respectively.



### Male continued to outnumber females

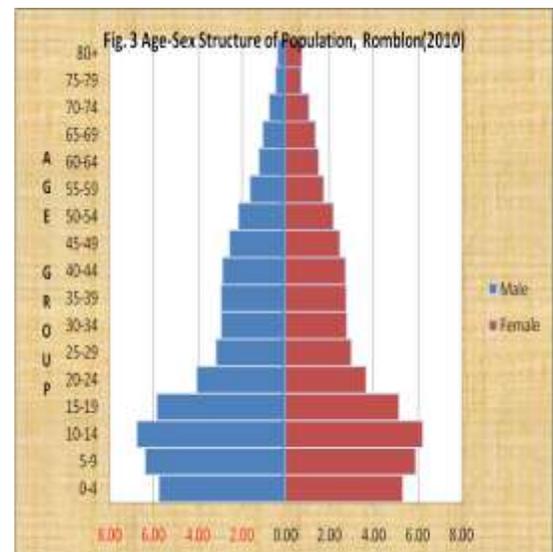
Sex ratio in 2007 and 2010 census showed that there are more males than females at 102 and 103 males, respectively, for every 100 females. Of the 283,482 household population, males accounted for 144,091 or 50.8 percent while females comprised 139,391 or 49.2 percent.

### Median age increased to 21.7

In 2010, the median age was recorded at 21.7. This means that half of the population was younger than 21.7 years. This is higher than the recorded median age of 19.5 during the 2000 CPH.

Moreover, approximately two in every five persons (36.4 percent) were under 15 years old. Children aged 10-14 years comprised the largest age group with 13.0 percent. It was followed the group of 5-9 years (12.3 percent), and 0-4 years (11.1 percent).

Males outnumbered females in the age group 0-49 years. On the other hand, there were more females in the age group 50 years and older.



### More than half of the population were of voting age

The voting-age population (18 years old and over) accounted for 56.6 percent of the household population of the province in 2010, up from 52.7 percent in 2000. There were more females (50.2 percent) than males (49.8 percent) among the voting age population.

### Dependency ratio decreased to 75 dependents per 100 persons in the working age group

In 2010, the young dependents (0 to 14 years) comprised 36.4 percent of the household population while the old dependents (65 years and over) posted a share of 6.4 percent. The working age population (15 to 64 years) accounted for the remaining 57.2 percent.

The overall dependency ratio was 75, which indicates that for every 100 working-age population, there were about 75 dependents (64 young and 11 old dependents). This ratio is lower than the dependency ratio in 2000, which was recorded at 85 dependents per 100 working-age population (75 young and 10 old dependents)

### **There were more males than females among never-married persons**

Of the household population 10 years old and over, 44.7 were never married while 43.2 percent were married. The rest of the population were categorized as follows: in common-law/live-in (5.8 percent), widowed (5.5 percent), and divorced/separated (0.9 percent).

### **More females had attained higher levels of education**

Of the household population aged five years and over, 43.0 percent had attended or completed elementary education, 32.1 percent had reached or finished high school, 7.2 percent were academic degree holder, and 7.0 percent were college undergraduates.

Among those with academic degree, the females (59.0 percent) outnumbered the males (41.0 percent). Similarly, more females (63.2 percent) than males (36.8 percent) had pursued post baccalaureate courses.

### **Average household size was 4.5 persons**

The number of households in 2010 was recorded at 62,714, higher by 8,933 households compared with the 53,731 households posted in 2000. The average household size in 2010 was 4.5 persons, lower than the household size of 4.9 persons recorded in 2000.

## **Health Services**

There are eight hospitals in the province, all of which are government owned. The hospitals in Tablas Island are the following: Romblon Provincial Hospital (RPH) in Odiongan (75 beds), Tablas Island District Hospital (TIDH) in San Agustin (25 beds) Don Modesto Formilleza District Hospital (DMFDH) in Looc (25 beds) and San Andres District Hospital (6 beds). In Sibuyan Island, the Sibuyan District Hospital in Cajidiocan can accommodate 25 in-patients. In the island municipalities, the San Jose in San Jose has 10 beds, the Malipayon District Hospital in Corcuera has 10 beds and the Romblon District Hospital in the capital town of Romblon has 75 beds. Total bed capacity of the eight hospitals is 251 or a bed to population ratio of 1:1115.

## **Education**

Based on the report from the Department of Education (DepEd) Division of Romblon for CY 2010, there are 228 elementary schools in the province, 216 of which are public and 12 are private. Of the 216 public elementary schools, 162 offer pre-school education, while 20 of the private schools have the same offering. There are also 10 private pre-schools offering pre-elementary and secondary education. For secondary level, a total of 44 schools offer secondary education, of which 37 are public schools and 7 are private institutions. There are thirteen vocational schools in the province while tertiary education is offered by Romblon State College and one private college.

Based on CBMS data for 2007, out of the 50,455 children aged 6-12 years old there are 38,905 who are attending elementary education or a proportion of 63.7 percent. For high school, out of the 26,920 children aged 13-16 years old, there are 16,849 who attended secondary education or a proportion of 56.9 percent. For children attending school both elementary and high school, out of 77,375 children aged 6 to 16 years old, 68,443 go to school or a school participation rate of 88.46%.

The Department of Education, Division of Romblon believes that every person has the right to education. Through formal and informal channels it has provided the school-age population basic and relevant education geared towards producing productive and quality Romblomanons. In line with the Department policy to provide education for all, 197 of the 219 barangays in the 17 municipalities have established elementary schools that provide educational programs for the well-rounded development of the young people in the province.

The Division of Romblon is composed of 13 districts. Twelve of these districts have full time district supervisors and the remaining 1 district has a coordinating principal. There are 216 elementary schools in the division managed by 77 principals, 84 head teachers, 54 teachers-in-charge. As of SY 2011-2012, the total number of regular teachers in the division is 1,659.

Early Childhood Education in the division is provided to pre-school age children through DepEd SRA Pre-schools, LGU and PTCA funded pre-schools and Service Contracting Program of the Department of Education. Equal opportunities are also provided for children with special needs. Three Special Education classes are maintained in Romblon East Central School in the municipality of Romblon handled by three trained teachers. The class for the visually impaired was established in school year 2003-2004, the class for the mentally handicapped was established in school year 2004-2005 and the class for the hearing impaired was established in SY 2009-2010.

Most of the schools in the division are provided with physical structures and facilities designed to facilitate learning process and inspire the learners to strive for the best performance. Some of these structures and facilities were constructed thru TEEP. These facilities include school buildings, water system, electricity, clinic, canteen, libraries, science laboratories and restrooms. Some schools also have equipment such as typewriters, computers, sports equipment, fax machine, etc.

The overall pupil-textbook ratio in the elementary is 2:1 which is below the standard of 1:1, while the number of supplemental books is generally inadequate. But despite of this problem, the division enjoys a continuous increase for the last three years in the NAT MPS and it is now above the standard of 75%.

Through the years, the Division has consistently pushed for enhancement and upgrading of teachers' knowledge and competency to teach the content areas through continuous professional development programs such as INSET and other forms of teacher development program. Most of these trainings were funded by TEEP. School-based in-service trainings are encouraged and initiated by school heads depending on the priority needs of teachers.

The province of Romblon has a total of 17 municipalities and 219 barangays. Of the 219 barangays, only 197 or 89.9 have established schools. Data above show 22 or 10.01 have no schools; 9 in Banton, 3 in Cajidiocan, 1 in Concepcion, 2 in Corcuera, 1 in San Agustin, 2 in San Fernando, 1 in Sta. Maria and 3 in Romblon. In Banton, the number of school age children in the barangays of Hambian, Mainit, Nabalay, Toctoc, Togong, Togbongan, and Yabawon is not enough to open a class. The same condition exists in Brgy. San Isidro in Sta. Maria and Pili, in Panangcalan, San Fernando. In Corcuera, Concepcion, San Agustin and Romblon, the central schools accommodate the pupils of nearby barangays. These are the reasons why some barangays have no existing schools despite the thrust of the National Government of "A School in Every Barangay".

### ***Participation Rate***

The data show that the enrolment in SY 2008-2009 is higher than the enrolment in SY 2009-2010 but the net enrolment rate of 86.62% in SY 2009-2010 is higher than the 77.69% in SY 2008-2009. This is because of the higher percentage of the enrolment in SY 2009-2010 belong to school age population. Secondary data shows is a fluctuating trend in enrolment, from SY 2007-2008 it increases in 2008-2009 but from 2009-2010 to present it has a decreasing trend of enrolment. Presumably the varying trend in enrolment has been influenced by various factors as poverty, frequent absenteeism, dismal health condition of the students. Generally, the total enrolment for the given school years shows a fluctuating trend during the five-year period.

The Net Enrolment Rate or Participation Rate in the elementary level for the last three years is fluctuating. From 80.72 in SY 2007-2008, it decreased to 77.69 in SY 2008-2009 and made a quantum leap to reach 86.62 in SY 2009-2010 and again it decreases to 84.71 in SY 2010-2011. The decrease in SY 2008-2009 can be attributed to the difficult economic conditions experience during the period caused by the occurrence of calamities and typhoons like Frank that affected the livelihood of families in the province. This situation forced some parents not to send their children to school. The following year, the economic condition has improved and that explains the big increase in the net enrolment rate for SY 2009-2010, but again it decreases to 84.71 for the SY 2010-2011.

Based on data, the gross enrolment is increasing while the Net enrolment is fluctuating. Comparing the data for the participation rate it is noted that the Gross participation rate from 2007-2008 up to 2009-2010 is increasing, while the Net Participation rate is fluctuating. The reason for the increase can be attributed to those OSY who avail of the services of the OHS and the campaign for Balik-Aral where in those who drop out from school and repeaters were motivated to enroll again, giving them some modular instructions so that they can still help their parents earn a living. The Net Enrolment in 2008-2009 decreased but in 2009-2010 it increased again resulting from a fluctuating trend of the Participation rate. Considering and giving attention to the National EFA target in terms of Participation rate which is 78% we are still very far because in the year 2009-2010-the average participation rate is only 55.98% which is 22.02% far from the National EFA target. Another factor that can be considered in the fluctuating trend of the participation rate is the preference of school age children to quit schools after their elementary graduation due to economic status and typhoons that hit the province.

### **Simple Dropout Rate**

Although the simple dropout rate is fluctuating due to migration of some families to other places to seek greener pasture, still the division's dropout rate is lowest in the region and one among the lowest in the country. The dropout rate in the secondary level decreased in the year 2009. The factor that can be attributed to the decrease are the interventions done regarding the DORP such as home visitation, counseling and Adopt a scholar project of some schools in the division of Romblon. Another factor that can be attributed in the decrease of dropout is that there are 8 secondary schools in the division for the last three years who offer OHS and because of this there are schools who achieved a zero dropout rate, since those students who are at the risk of dropping are advised to enroll in the open high school. In 2010 the dropout rate increase, the reason behind is due to migration to other places to look for family subsistence and due to personal reasons such as early marriage and poor academic performance.

Three municipalities; Alcantara, Looc and Romblon has a decreasing trend of enrollment both in elementary and secondary level for the last three school year while San Fernando has continuous increase of enrolment for the last three school year both in elementary and secondary. The rest of other municipalities had a fluctuating trend of enrolment in elementary level and secondary level. The municipality of San Jose has an increasing trend of enrolment in elementary while decreasing in secondary level.

Dropout Rates in five municipalities of Calatrava, Concepcion, San Andres, San Jose and Santa Maria had maintained the 0% in elementary level. The municipality of Cajidiocan has the highest percent of dropout rate in elementary and Magdiwang in secondary with 0.80% and 5.58% respectively for the SY 2010-2011.

#### **a. Cohort Survival Rates**

This indicator computes the percentage of a cohort of pupils who are able to reach grade six. For the last three years, the division's cohort-survival rate is decreasing due to the growing number of pupils who stop schooling because of the poor economic conditions of their families and also the transfer of residences of families. Same also with the cohort-survival rate in the secondary level, decreasing at a rate of 3.63 from Year 2007 to Year 2010. The decrease in survival rate of the division could be attributed to transfer of residence of students due to economic reasons.

Planning Standard for Cohort is 78 for elementary and 77 for secondary;  
Planning Standard for Completion is 80% both in elementary and secondary

Table 6 reveals that elementary school in the municipalities of Alcantara, Banton, Calatrava, Concepcion, Odiongan and Sta. Fe had a cohort survival rate that is above the standard of 78% as of March 2006 in elementary level and secondary school in Banton, Ferrol, Looc, San Agustin and Santa Fe had also reached the standard of survival rate; While as of March 2007, elementary schools of Banton, Concepcion, Ferrol, Santa Fe and Santa Maria also had achieved the standard rate and secondary schools of Alcantara, Corcuera, Ferrol, Looc, Odiongan, San Fernando, Sata Fe, and Santa Maria; But only schools in six municipalities of Alcantara, only in secondary level; Concepcion and Corcuera both in elementary and secondary level, Odiongan, and

Santa Fe, secondary level and San Jose elementary level, had attained the required standard of cohort as of March 2008.

Completion Rate of elementary and secondary schools in the municipalities of Banton and Santa Fe had above the standard and elementary schools in Calatrava, Concepcion and Odiongan while in secondary school, schools in Ferrol and Looc had also attained above standard as of March 2006; while the completion rate of elementary schools at Banton, Concepcion, Santa Fe and Santa Maria and secondary schools in Corcuera, Ferrol and Odiongan were only schools that reached the standard as of March 2007. In March 2008 only schools in Concepcion and Santa Fe, that had attained the completion rate above the standards. As we compared the years of input per graduate from the completion rate; we can conclude that the lower the completion rate, the longer years of input per graduate. The reasons behind were dropouts and failures.

b. Classroom – Pupil/Student Ratios

Cambalo NHS has no available instructional rooms; Don Carlos MNHS of San Fernando, reveals to have a severe shortage of classrooms. Followed by San Agustin NTHS and Corcuera NHS (Gold), which does not meet RA 7880, and Cajidiocan NHS, Calatrava NHS, Romblon NHS-Romblon, Santa Fe NHS and Santa Maria NHS are under Yellow which fails to meet the RA 7880. All the rest secondary schools meet the RA 7880.

There are 126 instructional rooms that needs major repair and 142 needs minor repair.

a. Tertiary Education and Vocational Schools

The Romblon State University has a unique role compared with other higher learning institutions in the Philippines. Its quadratic functions such as instructions, research, extension and production are appropriate and pro-active response to typhoon prone and isolated island province of Romblon. Production is one of the key and important factors to ensure sustainable development by attaining self-sufficiency and resiliency to the impact of its natural ecological conditions.

This section presents the five (5) academic years (AY 2005-2010) enrollment status, graduates, licensure and board passers, program accreditation status, institutional linkages that includes on-the-job-training, scholarships to both faculty and students as a mechanism for faculty development and students' financial assistance and awards, and graduates employability.

**Enrollment Status**

For academic year (AY 2005-2010), the Romblon State University System has 51,469 total enrollment distributed in graduate studies (954), degree programs (43,869) and non-degree programs (7,506). The average annual enrollment is 10,293 students. The main campus in Odiongan, Romblon has the highest number of students and programs offered. The tables below show the five-year disaggregated and specific enrollment data per campus as follows: Table graduate studies, Table degree programs, Table non-degree programs.

Table 7 shows the enrolment of graduate program in RSU Main Campus, San Agustin and San Fernando. Out of 954 enrollees for AY 2005-2010 with an average of 73.4% students per year, the main campus gleaned 73.4% while San Agustin and San Fernando had 14.5% and 12.1% respectively. The highest enrollment was registered in AY 2009-2010 though there was a decrease of 3.17% in the second semester. San Fernando campuses had zero enrollments in second semester of AY 2006-2007 while San Agustin campus offered in first semester of AY 2006-2007 and AY 2007-2008. This ? the enrollment was not merit the offering of the program.

In the degree program, Table 8 shows the enrollment trend varies per campus every year. The annual average enrollment registered for the whole RSU was 4,387 students. The main campus garnered the highest enrollment with a total of 27, 572 students followed by Sawang and San Fernando with 4,776 and 4,377 respectively. Other campuses with smaller enrollment rate are: Cajidiocan 1,991; Calatrava, 1,976; San Agustin, 950; San Andres, 864; Sta. Maria, 854; and Sta. Fe, 509.

Table --- reveals the decreasing trend of enrollment every second semester with an average of 6.36% for the last five years. The decline is attributed to the income from production of parents or guardians where forced students to drop from school

The five-year enrollment of the non-degree program of Romblon State University which garnered a total of 7,506 students. Table – below shows the disaggregated data of enrollment per campus for the academic year 2005-2010. The main campus has consistently the highest number of students with 34.7% followed by Sawang, 23.3% and San Fernando campus. Out of nine campuses, only Cajidiocan campus has no non-degree program. Sta. Maria and Calatrava started this program in the second semesters of AY 2005-2006 and AY 2007-2008 respectively.

### **Graduates**

In AY 2005-2010, Romblon State University system produce 7,013 graduates in the different programs distributed as follows: graduate program 54; degree, 3,834; non-degree, 1,270; and high school, 1,835. Disaggregated data per campus are shown in table below.

Table 10 shows graduates in RSU main campus only from the graduate programs. The highest number of graduates was produced in AY 2007-2008 then in AY 2009-2010 and 2005-2006 respectively. In AY 2008-2009 a remarkably low number of graduates were produced.

Table 11 shows the details of graduates in the degree program per campus. Out of 3,834 graduates from nine campuses, RSU main campus produced 61.2%, followed by San Fernando and Sawang with 11.6% and 11.1% respectively. Other campuses produced minimal number of graduates: Calatrava, 4.8%; Cajidiocan, 3.6%; San Agustin, 2.1% and Sta. Maria, 1.9%; San Andres, 1.8% and Sta. Fe, 1.5%.

A total of 1,290 graduates from non-degree programs were produced by seven RSU campuses. RSU main campus shared the highest number of graduates with the average of 38.9% followed by Sawang, 19.8%; San Fernando, 19.5%; San Agustin, 7.8%; Sta. Fe, 6.28%; San Andres, 5%; and Sta. Maria, 2.7%.

#### **IV. Local Economy**

##### **Agriculture and Livestock**

Agriculture is the main industry in the province. Coconut is the number one crop with a total planted area of 58,270.44 hectares. San Agustin has the most extensive area with coconut plants followed by Romblon and Cajidiocan. Rice is the next crop being produced particularly in Odiongan, Looc, Cajidiocan and Santa Fe. Other crops grown include root crops, vegetables and fruits. Odiongan, Banton and Magdiwang have the greatest areas planted with root crops and correspondingly, with the highest volume of production. Vegetable production is mostly for home consumption and grown in small scale.

Livestock development and poultry production is a viable small scale enterprise for farmers in the province. The provincial government maintains breeding facilities in strategic locations provincewide to encourage farmers to engage in livestock and poultry production to augment their income. Livestock and poultry management training and seminars is provided to interested clients.

Due to the geographical condition of the province, crops and livestock production is generally deficient as compared to the food requirements of Romblon population. To meet the rice requirements, Romblon relies on imports from the neighboring provinces while vegetables, poultry meat, vegetables and fruits are supplied mostly by Luzon.

##### **Coastal Marine Resources**

Fishing industry can be a major enterprise as Romblon is surrounded by bodies of water. The fishing ground of Romblon is a migratory path of fishes from Sulu and Visayan Seas passing Tablas Strait, Sibuyan Sea and Romblon Pass. The waters also abound with demersal fishes due to the coral reefs surrounding the islands.

Because the province has a great potential for aqua/marine development, the province implemented a coastal and resource management program. Each municipality established a fish sanctuary and passed laws on fishery. The use of compressor in the municipal waters was regulated and banned altogether in some municipalities.

##### **Mineral Resources**

Marble is the most significant mineral deposit of Romblon and is the most renowned product of the province. Based on statistics, Romblon is the second biggest provincial marble producer of the country next to Bulacan. Romblon marble is of very high quality and comes in shades of white, green, pink, red and black. The Mines and Geosciences Bureau has estimated that Romblon is endowed with about 150 million metric tons of marble. At current rates of extraction, the supply may last for three more centuries. Tablas Island is also believed to have vast reserves of marble.

Marble quarrying and processing are major activities in Romblon. Among the most common marble products are categorized into the following: novelty items (gifts, ashtray, table bars), furniture (dining tables, baptismal fonts) and construction materials (tiles, balusters, marble chips).

Other mineral resources with considerable quantity include nickel ore and gold mostly to be found in Sibuyan Island. Gold panning and small scale mining is a lucrative undertaking in the municipality of Magdiwang.

## **Tourism**

Romblon's exotic blend of sun, sea and forest, together with its peaceful and friendly people make it an enchanting destination for nature and adventure travelers. Both local and international tourists can have their pick of diverse and interesting places and activities they can find in our 20 islands and islets. The province has white sand beaches, secret coves and serene islets, waterfalls, historic sites, old churches and caves believed to be ancient burial sites. Mt. Guiting-Guiting Natural Park in Sibuyan Island is a famous site for mountain climbing. Moreover, it is a center for plant diversity and home to many native, endangered and rare and vulnerable birds, mammals and reptiles.

## **V. Infrastructure/Utilities/Facilities**

For travelers, Romblon have many hotel and lodging houses for temporary staying in each municipality of the province.

Table 13. Hotels and Lodging Houses by Municipality, Romblon 2010

<b>Location</b>	<b>Hotels/Lodging Houses</b>
San Agustin	Kamella Lodge & Restaurant, Kambaye Beach Resort, August Inn, Montesa Haus, Doña Julita Madrigal Lodge and Fel-Nor Lodging House/Restaurant
Alcantara	Aglikay Beach Resort
San Andres	Mortel Lodging House
Calatrava	Maryann B. Montesa Apartment
Odiongan	Haliwood Inn & Restaurant, Poctoy Beach Inn Resort & Restaurant, Rencio's Resort, Hali Beach Inn Resort, Shell Borne Lodge, Aloha Hotel, Sentro de las Islas Hotel and Fernandez Beach Resort
Ferrol	Don Leonardo Festin Beach Resort and Binucot Beach Resort
Looc	Marduke Hotel, Roda Beach Resort, Giesells

	Beach Haus, Plaza Inn Morales Lodging House and Mateo Beach Resort
Sta. Fe	Asis Traveller's Lodge and Mateo Beach Resort
Romblon	Romblon Plaza Hotel, Bayview Mansion, Moravian Hotel, Felmar Pension House, Seaside Lodge, Villa del Mar, Tiamban Aqua Club Resort, Palm Beach Garden Resort, Piyapi Resort, Diwata Beach Resort, San Pedro/Talipasak Beach Resort, Marble Beach Resort, Palje Retreat Center, Kabanbanan Beach Resort, Blue Ridge Hotel, Buena Suerte Resort, Rowena's Beach Resort, Bituon Beach Resort, Punta Corazon Resort and Miñeque Inn
San Fernando	Sea Breeze Recreation Center, Bernie's Inn, Jenmar Lodge and Cantingas River Resort
Magdiwang	Corran Guest House, Rocha's Lodging House and Protected Area Office Complex
Cajidiocan	Marble House
San Jose	Republic of Inobahan, Vista Violeta, Carabao Beach Resort and Carabao Lodge
Banton	Banton Guest House
Corcuera	Corcuera Guest House

*Source: Annual Report, Province of Romblon, 2010*

## **Road Network**

The coastal roads traversing the major islands of Romblon, Sibuyan and Tablas Island form the backbone of the road network of the province. Roughly 70 percent of these road networks are located in Tablas Island. By road category, majority are national roads with total length of 311.046 kilometers, followed by provincial roads with 239.005 kilometers. There is no available data for municipal and barangays roads. By surface type, most of the roads were paved by gravel/earth but portions of circumferential roads are paved with concrete and most roads in Poblacion are concrete.

The primary modes of land transportation in the province are jeepneys, motorcycles, mini buses and tricycles that serve inter-municipal movements and linkages. Motorized bancas provide transport means from island to island. At present, there is an available domestic flight in Tablas Island for and from Manila three times a week. Roro ships facilitate movement outside the province via the port of Batangas.

### **Water Supply**

Out of seventeen municipalities, fourteen have level three water supply systems serving 18,590 households or about 32.57% of the total provincial households. Level three has a reservoir with house-to-house connections. 5,252 households were serviced by level II water systems and 24,700 households by level I water system. Level I category is a common facility where the community members get their water supply from shallow wells and deep wells while level 2 has a reservoir with communal faucet. Based

on the report from the Provincial Health Office for CY 2007, a total of 48,542 households out of the 57,079 or 85.04% have access to safe drinking water.

## **Power Supply**

Power supply is generated by the National Power Corporation (NPC) and serviced by two electric cooperatives.

Tablas Island Electric Cooperatives (TIELCO) serves the power needs of Tablas Island including the island municipality of San Jose. TIELCO has a total of 21,097 house connections.

Romblon Electric Cooperative (ROMELCO) supplies the capital town of Romblon as well as Sibuyan Island. ROMELCO has 5,288 house connections in Romblon and 5,150 house connections in the three municipalities located in Sibuyan Island or a total of 10,438 house connections in their franchise area.

The Islands of Banton, Concepcion and Corcuera are attended to by the National Power Corporation (NPC) thru the municipal governments.

## **Telecommunications**

The province has several operating telecommunication exchanges, namely: Kayumanggi, Romblontel, Odiongan Telephone Corporation (OTELCO), the Telecommunication Office (TELOF), Telegram System, Liberty Phone, Public Calling Stations under the DOTC and the Provincial Communication System (PCS) radio transceivers and receivers. SMART and GLOBE telecommunications have relay stations in the three urban centers of Romblon, Odiongan and Cajidiocan. Most areas province wide is already connected through cell phones except on some places where the signal is weak or non-existent because of towering mountains that block the signal. The triple peak in Sta. Maria has a relay station for GMA, PLDT and Liberty Phones.

## **VI. Local Institutional Capability**

Romblon has been reclassified as a third class province as of CY 2002. A lone congressional district, it is made up of 17 municipalities and 219 barangays. Hereunder are the municipalities, the number of barangays and income classification.

1. Romblon – 3<sup>rd</sup> class, the capital town comprising 31 barangays
2. Alcantara – 5<sup>th</sup> class municipality with 12 barangays
3. Banton – 5<sup>th</sup> class municipality with 17 barangays
4. Cajidiocan – 4<sup>th</sup> class municipality with 14 barangays
5. Calatrava – 5<sup>th</sup> class municipality with 7 barangays
6. Concepcion – 6<sup>th</sup> class municipality with 9 barangays
7. Corcuera – 5<sup>th</sup> class municipality with 15 barangays
8. Ferrol – 6<sup>th</sup> class municipality with 6 barangays
9. Looc – 4<sup>th</sup> class municipality with 12 barangays
10. Magdiwang – 5<sup>th</sup> class municipality with 9 barangays
11. Odiongan – 2<sup>nd</sup> class municipality with 25 barangays
12. San Agustin – 4<sup>th</sup> class municipality with 15 barangays

13. San Andres – 5<sup>th</sup> class municipality with 13 barangays
14. San Fernando – 4<sup>th</sup> class municipality with 12 barangays
15. San Jose – 6<sup>th</sup> class municipality with 5 barangays
16. Santa Fe – 5<sup>th</sup> class municipality with 11 barangays
17. Santa Maria – 5<sup>th</sup> class municipality with 6 barangays

Odiongan has the highest income classification among the 17 municipalities of the province, at 2<sup>nd</sup> class. It was followed by Romblon (Capital) at 3<sup>rd</sup> class, and the municipalities of San Fernando, San Agustin, Cajidiocan and Looc as 4<sup>th</sup> class municipalities.

Meanwhile, San Jose, Ferrol and Concepcion are classified as 6<sup>th</sup> class municipalities.

## **Banking**

There are several banking facilities in the municipalities of Odiongan. It has Land Bank, Rural Bank, Allied Bank, and Philippine National Bank. There are also different cooperatives which cater banking services to their members like the St. Vincent Ferrer MPC and KAD-BAYAN MPC while Banton MPC was operating at the municipality of Banton with services extending to its neighboring municipalities including some in Tablas Island.

Romblon (Capital) has the PNB Romblon Branch. Rural banks facilitate loans and savings account in the other municipalities without commercial banks such as in the municipalities of San Agustin, Looc, Alcantara, Santa Fe, Cajidiocan and San Fernando.

## **Peace and Order**

Based on the latest report from the Romblon Police Office, the province is considered one of the most peaceful in the country with a minimal volume of crimes. It has maintained the peace and tranquility of the place and never contributed to the destabilization of the country. The local communist movement is hardly felt in any part of the province with no atrocity committed against government personnel or establishment. Syndicated crime groups and criminal gangs continue to be non-existent anti crime incidents are more often non-index crimes.

As of 2012, the crime volume registered in the province was 253 crimes (145 index and 108 non-index crimes), far from its registered crime volume in 2011 at 663 (381 index and 282 non-index crimes). Among the index crimes reported in 2012, physical injury got the highest share at 63 cases followed by theft (27 cases), and rape (21). Average crime rate in the province in 2011 was 231.13 while it decreased tremendously during 2012 when it registered only 88.2.

Average monthly crime rate in 2011 is 19.26 (11.07 index and 8.19 non-index) while it registered only 7.35 (4.21 index and 3.14 non-index) during the year 2012.

Crime clearance efficiency and crime solution efficiency was registered at 56.12 and 31.25 percent, respectively, during 2012.

## **Pawnshops**

There are 23 registered pawnshops in the province as of 2010 per data from Central bank of the Philippines. These pawnshops includes M-Lhuillier Pawnshop, Cebuana Lhuillier Pawnshop, and Palawan Pawnshop.

Of the existing pawnshops, Palawan Pawnshop have existing branches in almost all of the municipalities in the province except the island-municipalities of Tres Islas.

## **Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA)**

IRA of the province in 2009 is 385.70 million pesos while in 2010 it increases to 409.60 million where it ranks 71<sup>st</sup> among the provinces in the country. Meanwhile, the percentage of IRA to financial resources of the province is 88.60 percent and ranks 8<sup>th</sup> among the provinces.

## **Transportation**

Situated at the center of the archipelago, Romblon links the supply areas of Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. Inter-island ferries from Manila and the Southern Luzon ports of Batangas City, Lucena City in Quezon province, and Roxas, Oriental Mindoro are the primary mode of transportation linking the province to the rest of the country. The province's main ports of entry are Odiongan, and the capital town of Romblon. Motorized wooden boats and launches also links the province to the towns of Buenavista, Marinduque and Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro.

Tugdan Airport in Alcantara, Tablas Island, is the only airport in the province and is less than an hour away from Metro Manila via flights once a week by South East Asian Airlines and three time a week by Zest Airways.

## **Media**

MBS Radio Natin 101.3 FM Odiongan, MBS 104.5 Hot FM Looc, and 100.5 Cool Radio Romblon are the existing Radio Stations in the province.

In the print media, Romblon Text and Romblon Sun are the two main circulating newspapers in the province. There are also other newspapers circulating such as Romblon Patrol, but not on a regular basis.

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## **Cable providers and local cable stations**

There are also existing cable providers and local cable station operating in each municipality in the province as enumerated below:

- Romblon Cable Corporation ([Romblon, Romblon](#))
- Accutronics System Inc. ([Odiongan, Romblon](#))
- San Agustin Cable Antenna Corp. ([San Agustin, Romblon](#))
- Countryside Satellite Television System Inc. ([Looc, Romblon](#))
- Gateway Cable TV Network ([Calatrava, Romblon](#))
- San Andres CATV Service Coop. ([San Andres, Romblon](#))

- Josefa J. Martinez CATV Services ([Alcantara, Romblon](#))
- Magdiwang Cable Television ([Magdiwang, Romblon](#))
- Sibuyan Cable TV ([San Fernando, Romblon](#) & [Cajidiocan, Romblon](#))

Aside from these cable stations, there are also distributors of SIGNAL, Dream Sattelite, and GSAT who provide television services for its subscribers.

