

ESPERANZA PROFILE

Vision

The Municipality of Esperanza is envisioned to be one of the urbanizing and agri-industrializing municipalities in the Province of Sultan Kudarat through the modernization of its agriculture and fishery sector, judicious and sustainable utilization of its natural resources into tourist potentials and the formulation of productive, viable and self-reliant communities thru the development of its human resources and infrastructure facilities in coordination with the different civil society organizations and national line agencies.

Mission

To improve the socio-economic life of the people by establishing a socially cohesive society, sound and stable economy, natural unity, institutional viability and cultural & ecological, sustainability.

Elected Officials

Municipal Mayor: Hon. Helen T. Latog

Municipal Vice Mayor: Hon. Felix L. Ploteña

Sangguniang Bayan Members:

1. Hon. Lazaro L. Acana
2. Hon. Basilio D. San Miguel, Jr.
3. Hon. Nestor G. Villarin
4. Hon. Myra Jade E. Kalahi
5. Hon. Wilma G. Gegone
6. Hon. Nesar Nesthur Ray H. Gumana
7. Hon. Edwin M. Cachero
8. Hon. Gerardo E. Gito

Sectoral Representatives:

ABC President - Hon. Remy M. Ayco, Sr.

SK President - Hon. Kryslyn Dhana L. Latog

History

Esperanza is a Spanish word meaning HOPE, in the local dialect, it means Pag-asa or Pag-laum. It is believed that the first baby born in the first settled area in the wilderness of Dulawan was a baby girl whom the early settlers called Esperanza with the anticipation that with birth of child, the name alone could inspire the coming in of peace, unity and prosperity to the settlers.

In 1952, a group of Christian settlers established a settlement in Villamor within the then municipal district of Dulawan now presently known as barangay Villamor of Esperanza, Sultan Kudarat.

In 1953, motivated by the primary concern for the education of their children, the settlers petitioned the school authorities for a school at Barrio Villamor, and on the opening of that school year, the Villamor Primary School initiated and requested a government survey for the proposed barrio site of Esperanza with the expressed approval of Datu Into Saliao. The survey was officially known and identified as TS-310.

When Cotabato-General Santos City National Highway was constructed, Esperanza became an independent barrio of Dulawan, Cotabato with Silverio Africa as the first “ Barrio Lieutenant “ or “ Delegado “.

In 1956, Datu Into Saliao, a prominent Datu of the place has distributed lands to the people either by lease, share system and even donation to those close to him. By this philanthropic benevolence, people from all walks of life flocked to his barrio. Residential houses mushroomed around and that was the beginning of the programs of Esperanza.

The progress of Esperanza and other neighboring barrios made good. Business has improved and upon written petitioned of the residents, the municipality of Ampatuan was finally created by virtue of Republic Act No. 2509 which was enacted and approved into law without executive approval on June 21, 1959. Esperanza was created by virtue of Presidential Decree No. 339 dated November 22, 1973 signed by President Ferdinand E. Marcos. The place progressed rapidly because of its location and philanthropic act of a prominent leader of the place named Datu Into Saliao who welcomed immigrants to the area.

The coming in of settlers from other places who intermingled with the native Muslims of the place was not without a accompanying problems, for it was only natural that the growing social milieu and diverse cultural heritage, customs, traditions and idiosyncrasies develop some tensions. The once peaceful municipality became a place of warrior groups. The wanton destruction of lives and properties by some segments of the population became the order of the day. The residents were forced to evacuate to other places for safety and protection.

Many events followed later, but these were the things of the past. For one thing, the situation although most unwelcome had triggered the creation of a new municipality – the municipality of Esperanza.

Financial Resources

Income Class - 2nd Class

Income - PhP 64,199,681.69 (2007)

IRA - PhP 57,819,043.00 (2007)

Land Area

- 35,630 hectares

Political Subdivision

1. Ala
2. Daladap
3. Dukay
4. Guiamalia
5. Ilian
6. Kangkong
7. Laguinding
8. Magsaysay
9. Marguez
10. New Panay
11. Numo
12. Paitan
13. Pamantingan
14. Poblacion
15. Sagasa
16. Salabaca
17. Saliao
18. Salumping
19. Villamor

Languages/Dialects

- Hiligaynon/Ilonggo
- Ilocano
- Manobo/Ata-Manaobo
- Maguindanao
- Tiruray

Population

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Total Population | 52,731 |
| 2. Population Density | 172 persons/sq.km. |
| 3. Population Growth Rate | 1.43% |
| 4. Registered Voters | 32,282 |

Religious Sects

- Catholic
- Iglesia Ni Cristo Church
- Seventh Day Adventist
- Jehovah's Witnesses
- Born Again
- Aglipay
- Alliance

Major Products: Rice, corn, coconut, durian, mango

Festival

HINABYOG FESTIVAL was once a dream now a reality. It came from an Ilonggo term “ HINABYOG “ which means swing to bring into reality, celebration of fun, merriment and thanksgiving. A festivity portrayed the mixed tradition and culture and the history of the very progressive municipality of Esperanza. This will have to commemorate the past and relate to the present the feast/rapid development of the place and will picture out the life of the populace from a very simple to a prosperous and progressive one.

From a mere NARRA settlement, ESPERANZA, the cradle of HOPE and PROSPERITY had swing and developed into a SITTIO of barangay Villamor. It was named after the beautiful wife of the settler leader Leandro Africa by the teacher enablers. It had steadfastly turned to a progressive municipality despite the tribal atrocities as history accounts.

A promise land with verdant forest and wild life exists, like wild pigs, ducks and chicken, deer’s jumping to and fro on huge log. This was the picture of the old Esperanza. Gone are the days when tarsiers and monkeys happily swing from tree to tree with the sweet melodies of the various kinds of birds with King Kalaw on lead and where populace trod narrow trails or laden on a sled pulled by a slow moving carabao. Now, all these are replaced by wide feeder farm roads and highways and various kinds of fast moving and improved transportation.

A place with a plenty of indigenous and natural resources helped enriched its inhabitants of Muslims, Christians and Lumads alike. The pioneers turned the area into progressive municipality. Before, agriculture had been the prime source of living. However, as the population grew, the people began to engage in simple cottage industries to sustain their way of life. Weaving which up to now exists, had been a very important activity as anahaw, buri, pandan, tikog, nito, wild bombo and rattan which luxuriate in the place since then.

From these materials, mats, bags, baskets, kaing bilao and duyan were woven. The “DUYAN” has a big significance to the name of Esperanza’s festivity. To recall, it had not only given the populace, young and adult alike, a pleasure and fun, but was also utilized to transport patients and weak individuals to far away places to see doctor or medico when transportation was nowhere to find. DUYAN the family’s recreation and leisure partner for its countless swings or “ HABYOG “ brings from anyone from tiresome day’s toil, dreamy restful and sound nap during siesta or anytime of the day. It can lull babies to a sound sleep with their mother’s sweet lullabies.

From the swing or “habyog” of the *duyan*, or a patadyong, a malong and/or any sort of its kind due to the scarcity of rattan nowadays, HINABYOG FESTIVAL was realized to boast and portray the simple hopes and dreams of the ESPERANZANIANS to live a progressive and prosperous life.

HINABYOG can bring back the past to a progressive present through arts and culture and will continually swing hopes and dreams for a better BEAUTIFUL ESPERANZA, which will continually soar high with beautiful colors in the future.

Tourist Spots:**Marquez Hot & Cold Spring**

It is approximately ten (10) kilometers from the Poblacion. It has five (5) hectares intended for tourist development. The plans of constructing a swimming pool in the area through the Department of Tourism had been implemented. The construction of swimming pool for children and other facilities are now going on. The Local Government of Esperanza is the one undertaking the construction/maintenance of roads going to this area. Located at the top of a rolling and hilly, area could have a panoramic view of the municipality and a sizeable portion of Isulan.