



## CULTURAL ORIENTATION

# CHAVACANO

---



*Flickr / Andy Maluche*

Ti  
2019



**DLIFLC**  
DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE  
FOREIGN LANGUAGE CENTER



## CULTURAL ORIENTATION | CHAVACANO

### Profile

Introduction .....	6
Important Elements of Geography .....	7
<i>Chavacano in Mindanao</i> .....	7
<i>The Island of Mindanao</i> .....	7
<i>Zamboanga Peninsula (Region 9)</i> .....	7
Climate .....	8
Major Cities .....	9
<i>Davao City</i> .....	9
<i>Zamboanga City</i> .....	9
<i>Cagayan de Oro City</i> .....	10
<i>Pagadian</i> .....	10
Important Elements of History .....	11
<i>Pre-Colonial Era</i> .....	11
<i>Spanish Colonialism</i> .....	11
<i>Nationalism, the 20th Century, and U.S. Rule</i> .....	12
<i>World War II and After: External and Internal Strife</i> .....	13
<i>Ferdinand Marcos and His Legacy</i> .....	14
<i>Recent Events</i> .....	14
Government .....	15
Media .....	15
Important Elements of Economy .....	16
Ethnic Groups and Languages .....	17
Endnotes for Chapter 1: Profile .....	19
Chapter 1   Assessment .....	24

### Religion

Overview and Background .....	25
Major Religions .....	26
<i>Catholicism</i> .....	26
<i>Islam</i> .....	27
<i>Indigenous Religions</i> .....	27
The Role of Religion in Government .....	28
Influence of Religion in Daily Life .....	29
<i>Interfaith Relations</i> .....	30
Religious Holidays .....	31
<i>Holy Week (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Black Saturday, and Easter)</i> .....	31
<i>All Saints' Day and All Souls Day</i> .....	32



## CULTURAL ORIENTATION | CHAVACANO

<i>Christmas</i> .....	32
<i>Sinulog</i> .....	33
<i>Eid al-Fitr</i> .....	33
<i>Eid al-Adha</i> .....	33
Buildings of Worship .....	34
<i>San Agustin Catholic Church</i> .....	34
<i>Basilica del Santo Nino</i> .....	34
Behavior in Places of Worship .....	35
<i>Churches</i> .....	35
<i>Mosques</i> .....	36
Endnotes for Chapter 2: Religion .....	37
Chapter 2   Assessment .....	42

### Traditions

Introduction .....	43
Honor and Values .....	44
<i>Cultural Expressiveness and Directness</i> .....	44
Formulaic Codes of Politeness .....	45
<i>Greetings</i> .....	45
Male/Female Interactions .....	46
Hospitality and Gift-Giving .....	46
<i>Social Dynamics</i> .....	46
<i>Gift Giving</i> .....	48
Eating Habits/Types of Food .....	49
<i>Cuisine</i> .....	49
<i>Meals</i> .....	50
Dress Codes .....	51
Non-Religious Celebrations (Holidays) .....	52
<i>Dia de la Ciudad de Zamboanga</i> .....	52
<i>Bataan Day</i> .....	52
<i>Independence Day</i> .....	52
<i>Labor Day</i> .....	53
<i>Ninoy Aquino Day</i> .....	53
<i>EDSA Revolution Day</i> .....	53
<i>National Heroes Day</i> .....	53
<i>Bonifacio Day</i> .....	53
<i>Rizal Day</i> .....	54
Other Cultural Traditions/Norms .....	54



## CULTURAL ORIENTATION | CHAVACANO

---

Dos and Don'ts.....	55
<i>Dos</i> .....	55
<i>Don'ts</i> .....	55
Endnotes for Chapter 3: Traditions .....	57
Chapter 3   Assessment .....	61

### Urban Life

---

Introduction .....	62
Urbanization Issues.....	63
Work in Urban Areas.....	63
Healthcare and Health Issues .....	64
Education and Schools in Cities .....	66
Restaurants.....	66
Marketplaces and Street Vendors .....	67
Money, Credit Cards, ATMs .....	68
Urban Traffic and Transportation .....	69
Street Crime and Solicitations.....	70
Endnotes for Chapter 4: Urban Life .....	72
Chapter 4   Assessment .....	76

### Rural Life

---

Introduction .....	77
Land Distribution/Ownership .....	78
Rural Economy/ Sources of Income.....	79
Rural Transportation.....	80
Rural Healthcare .....	81
Rural Education.....	83
Village Life .....	84
<i>Local Authority</i> .....	84
Endnotes for Chapter 5: Rural Life .....	88
Chapter 5   Assessment .....	92

### Family Life

---

Introduction .....	93
Typical Household and Family Structure.....	94
Male and Female Interactions .....	95
Status of Elders, Adolescents, and Children .....	96
<i>Elders</i> .....	96
<i>Adolescents and Children</i> .....	96
Married Life, Divorce, and Birth .....	97



# CULTURAL ORIENTATION | CHAVACANO



Marriage .....	97
Divorce .....	98
Birth .....	98
Family Social Events .....	99
Weddings .....	99
Funerals .....	99
Baptism .....	100
Naming Conventions .....	101
Endnotes for Chapter 6: Family Life .....	102
Chapter 6   Assessment .....	106

## Further Reading

Articles .....	107
----------------	-----

## Final Assessment

Final Assessment .....	109
------------------------	-----



*A canoe makes its way in the waters outside Dapitan City*  
Flickr / Leocadio Sebastian

## Chapter 1 | Chavacano Cultural Orientation

# Profile

## Introduction

The majority of the Filipino population descended from the Malay people, although there have been several cultural and ethnic influences in the Philippines throughout history. Chavacano speakers belong to one of the distinct ethnic-linguistic groups in the Philippines, which is home to at least a hundred different ethnic groups. Chavacano is also spoken in parts of Malaysia.<sup>1,2</sup>

More than 1 million speakers of the creole language Chavacano live in the Philippines, with the highest population residing in Zamboanga City and its surrounding areas.<sup>3</sup> Creole languages develop in a short period of time from the mixing of languages; in this case, Spanish and the indigenous languages on Mindanao island.<sup>4,5</sup> Also spelled Chabacano, the language has several dialects and a written form.<sup>6</sup> Chavacano's

status as a Philippine Creole Spanish language was marginalized historically in Filipino society, but today it is recognized as an official language.<sup>7, 8</sup>

## Important Elements of Geography

### *Chavacano in Mindanao*

The greatest concentration of Chavacano speakers is located on Mindanao, the second-largest island of the Philippines.<sup>9</sup> Most of Mindanao's population reside on the Zamboanga Peninsula. The long peninsula covers approximately 14,500 sq km (5,600 sq mi) of land and is connected to Mindanao by a narrow strip of mountainous terrain before expanding to the south.<sup>10</sup> In Zamboanga City, at the peninsula's southernmost tip, Chavacano speakers are known as Zamboanguēños.<sup>11</sup> Zamboanga City is located 935 km (505 mi) directly south of Manila and surrounded on three sides by water—the Sulu Sea to the west, the Moro Gulf on the east, and the Basilan Strait and the Celebes Sea to its south.<sup>12</sup>



**Regions in the Philippines  
where Chavacano is spoken**  
*Wikimedia / Fobos92*



**The Great Santa Cruz Island off the coast of Zamboanga City**  
*Wikimedia / Wowzamboangacity*

Mindanao is the second largest island of the Philippine archipelago, one of more than 7,000 islands and islets scattered over 300,000 sq km (115,830 sq mi) of territory.<sup>13, 14</sup> Mindanao itself comprises 94,631 sq km (36,537 sq mi) of land and is in the southernmost region of the country. The island's closest neighbors are Indonesia, Malaysia, and Borneo Island, which consists of Brunei, Malaysia, and Indonesian territories. Vietnam lies west of the Philippines, across the South China Sea.<sup>15, 16, 17</sup>

### *Zamboanga Peninsula (Region 9)*

The Zamboanga Peninsula is divided into three provinces: Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, and Zamboanga Sibugay. The peninsula covers 14,137 sq km (5,458 sq mi), comprising five major cities and 67 municipalities.<sup>18</sup>

Zamboanga del Norte is located on the western border of Mindanao. The province is bordered by the province of Misamis Occidental in the north, Zamboanga del Sur in the east, and the Sulu Sea on the northwest. Zamboanga city is located outside the southern tip of the province. Dapitan and Dipolog are the only two cities in the province.<sup>19</sup> Zamboanga del Sur is situated in the eastern section of the Zamboanga Peninsula. Pagadian City is the only city in the province.<sup>20</sup> Zamboanga Sibugay lies in the southern portion of the Zamboanga Peninsula and is named after the Sibugay River.<sup>21</sup>



**Seaside structures in Dapitan, Zamboanga Sur**  
Flickr / Leocadio Sebastian

A chain of mountains known as the Zamboanga Cordillera extends for most of the peninsula's length and is connected to Mindanao's main body by an isthmus – a strip of land that forms a link between two larger land areas.<sup>22</sup> Mount Malindang, an extinct volcano that reaches 2,404 m (7,887 ft) rises at the northeastern edge of the peninsula. This mountain range was proclaimed a national park and watershed reserve in 1971.<sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> Reaching an even greater elevation of 2,617 m (8,586 ft) is Mount Dabiak. Located in Zamboanga del Norte, it is the highest point of the Zamboanga Cordillera.<sup>25, 26</sup>

Batorampon Point rises 1,335 m (4,380 ft) on the edge of Zamboanga City. It is the highest peak on the southern peninsula. In addition to the lowlands, plains and mountain ranges, the peninsula is home to numerous bodies of water, such as straits, bays, channels, and rivers.<sup>27</sup>

## Climate



**The tropical environment as found in Dapitan City**  
Flickr / Leocadio Sebastian

The overall climate for the Philippines is tropical, with generally warm temperatures in the non-mountainous regions.<sup>28</sup> The Zamboanga Peninsula climate is relatively dry between November and April. A considerable amount of rain falls during the rest of the year, and in the eastern peninsula, rain occurs all year. In Zamboanga City, the dry, hot season falls between March and May, followed by rainfall from June to October. The weather cools between November and February, with average temperatures of 27°C (81°F).<sup>29</sup> The city, like the region in general, lies outside the typhoon belt that runs through much of the Philippines.<sup>30</sup>



## Major Cities

### *Davao City*

Located southeast on Mindanao, Davao City is the most populated city on Mindanao and a leading regional commercial center. It is home to 50 ports that transport corn, rice, and other grains to international markets. The city was founded in World War II as a Japanese colony, only to be completely destroyed by the war's end. The city was rebuilt and soon featured many of the cultures from the greater Philippines. Davao City is served by Francisco Bangoy International Airport, also known as Davao International Airport.<sup>31, 32</sup>



***The skyline of Davao City's Abreeza District***

*Wikimedia / Jayceeinparadise77*

Mount Apo, an active volcano and the highest point in the Philippines is located 32 km (20 mi) west of the city. The national bird of the Philippines, the rare Philippine eagle, nests on the mountain and throughout Mindanao Island.<sup>33, 34</sup>

### *Zamboanga City*



***The Zamboanga City Hall and the Plaza Rizal***

*Wikimedia / Bro. Jeffrey Pioquinto, SJ mbb8356*

Situated on the very end of the Zamboanga Peninsula sits Zamboanga City, a busy port city and the sixth-most populated city in the country with more than 861,000 residents.<sup>35</sup> The city's history dates back to the Spanish occupation in the 17th century. The name is taken from the Malay word *jambangan*, which means "place of flowers." The region was a hotbed for Moro pirate activity during this time, prompting the Spanish to build Fort Pilar. Zamboanga City became the capital of Mindanao during the American occupation of the region in the aftermath of the Spanish-American war.<sup>36</sup>

Today, Zamboanga City is highly urbanized. Since the city is surrounded by water on three sides, fishing is a major industry there. Eight canneries are located in the city, employing more than 15,000 workers and producing around 1,100 tons of sardines each day. Zamboanga also has a strong mix of indigenous groups, including the Tausug, Yakan, and Moro.<sup>37, 38</sup>

## Cagayan de Oro City



**Skyline of Cagayan de Oro, northern Mindanao**  
Wikimedia / Chicco111

At the head of Macajalar Bay is Cagayan de Oro, the third-most populated city of Mindanao. Like Zamboanga City, Cagayan de Oro's origins trace back to Spanish rule in the 17th century, when a mission, and later a fort, were built in the area.<sup>39</sup> The name Cagayan comes from the Malayo-Polynesian word *kagay*, which translates to “a place with a river.” *De Oro* means “of gold” in Spanish and was affixed to the city's name in 1949 to honor of the city's gold mining history. In 1950, the city's charter was signed by President Elpidio Quirino.<sup>40</sup> Today, the city is an important part of Mindanao's commerce, education, and government administration.<sup>41</sup>

## Pagadian

Western Mindanao is home to Pagadian City, another major port in the region. In addition to rice and corn, Pagadian produces and exports coconuts. Cebuano speakers are prominent in the city, which boasts a population of more than 186,000 people.<sup>42</sup> Pagadian was officially declared a municipality in 1937 when the region was populated mostly by Subanon speakers. As was the case for most of the Philippines in World War II, Pagadian was occupied by Japanese forces until the Battle of Pagadian in 1945, when the Japanese were expelled from the city. In 1952, Pagadian was finally declared an official city.<sup>43</sup>



**Rizal Avenue in Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur**  
Wikimedia / Razzmatazz143

## Important Elements of History

### *Pre-Colonial Era*

Though human activity in the Philippines dates back an estimated 250,000 years, it is believed to have been first settled by Negritos, or groups originating from Borneo and Sumatra, around 30,000 years ago. A consistent influx of Malay settlers followed over several centuries, eventually overtaking the Negrito population.<sup>44</sup>

Barangays, or small villages, grew to be the norm for early Filipino society. Within the barangays, various religions were practiced by the population. Islam was introduced to the Philippines in the 14th century by way of Arab traders, resulting in the establishment of two sultanates, which absorbed many of the existing barangays.<sup>45</sup>

Ferdinand Magellan, a Portuguese navigator who sailed under the flag of Spain and Portugal, landed on the Island of Cebu and claimed the territory for Spain in 1521. He was killed on the adjacent island of Mactan the same year in a battle with the chieftain Lapu-Lapu. The first permanent Spanish settlement, Cebu City, was established in 1565 and became the first colonial capital. The Spanish established a competing sphere of power in the Philippines and spread Roman Catholicism through most of the islands except the Sulu Archipelago and Mindanao, where they failed to conquer the Muslim natives, known as Moros (Spanish for Moors).<sup>46, 47</sup>



*Anonymous portrait of Portuguese explorer  
Ferdinand Magellan  
Wikimedia Commons*

### *Spanish Colonialism*

The Spanish warded off Moro pirates, clearing the way for their Christian settlements in the area. In addition to combating the Muslim-governed territories of the Philippines, the Spanish also competed with Dutch, Portuguese, Chinese, and English settlers who sought to establish their own spheres of control. Although the Chinese had successfully created a dominant commercial and retail trade network, the Spanish controlled the region politically until the 19th century.

Spanish rule was based on *encomienda*, a legal system that extracted financial tributes from non-Spanish local farmers, who were also ruled by local leaders. The Spanish assisted in the creation of a Filipino upper class by granting them access to tax exemptions, ownership of land, governing authority (subject to Spanish approval), and other privileges. One legacy of Spanish rule, besides Roman Catholicism, was the supplanting of the indigenous people's communal land-use policies with private land ownership.<sup>48, 49</sup>

The Chavacano language emerged in the mid-17th century when the Spanish established a major settlement in Zamboanga.<sup>50</sup> The majority of Chavacano-speaking Filipinos on Mindanao and the Zamboanga Peninsula



adopted Christianity during that period. Various Filipino Muslim groups such as the Moros resisted the Spanish conquest of the region, but their efforts were largely unsuccessful.<sup>51</sup>

Most Filipinos opposed the Spanish government because its policies favored the Spanish upper class and exploited the lower classes.<sup>52</sup> They also opposed the Church's control of the indigenous culture and accumulation of private property and wealth.<sup>53</sup> In response to these grievances, the Spanish eased their grip on the Philippines, opened Manila to foreign trade in 1834, and shortly thereafter, granted the same access to Zamboanga City and other islands. Trade with the United States and Europe grew, but resistance to the Spanish government continued.<sup>54</sup>



*Spanish conquistador  
Miguel Lopez de Legazpi  
Wikimedia / Magalhaes*

## *Nationalism, the 20th Century, and U.S. Rule*



*Jose Rizal, Marcelo del Pilar, and Mariano Ponce in 1890  
Wikimedia / Lynyrd Salapare*

In the 19th century, public education arrived in the Philippines and eventually sparked the push for independence. As education and knowledge of the world spread among the local population, progressive ideas, and a sense of national identity developed. The Propaganda Movement promoted nationalist views through print media via magazines and pamphlets.<sup>55</sup>

One prominent figure of the Propaganda Movement was Jose Rizal, who advocated for peaceful reform in the Philippines, though he did not directly advocate for independence from Spain. His influential writings advanced the nationalist cause but ultimately led to his exile and eventual execution in 1896.<sup>56</sup>

Despite its efforts, Spain could not halt the movement. Led by another Chinese-Filipino nationalist leader, Emilio Aguinaldo, Filipinos revolted against Spain in 1896. A few years later, Spain found itself at war with the United States. After the United States defeated the Spanish fleet and won the war, Aguinaldo declared independence for the Philippine Republic and became president. But true independence would have to wait.<sup>57</sup>

The 1898 Treaty of Paris transferred possession of the Philippines from Spain to the United States—a condition not welcomed in the islands, as independence was the desired outcome. The United States justified its presence as necessary to help the Philippines develop stable democratic institutions and prepare for self-rule. Refusing to recognize American sovereignty over them, Filipinos organized and fought



**The signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1899**  
Wikimedia / Frances Benjamin Johnson

Filipinos held the first commonwealth elections, establishing a government and electing Manuel Roxas as president. Zamboanga City grew in prominence and became Mindanao's center of government, trade, and commerce.<sup>59, 60</sup>

the U.S. forces. The Philippine–American War lasted from 1899 until 1902. Though peace was established, a resistance movement continued against the U.S. presence until 1913.<sup>58</sup>

Social progress was not impeded by ongoing conflicts. During those years, a legal system and public infrastructure were formed, and public education was expanded. By the end of World War I, Filipinos had taken control of their civil service. The Hare-Hawes-Cutting Act of 1933 established a date for independence in the Philippines, and a constitutional convention was held in 1934. In 1935,

## *World War II and After: External and Internal Strife*

On December 8, 1941, Japanese forces invaded and subsequently occupied the Philippines. Filipino forces and guerilla groups fought alongside American forces to defeat the occupiers, who surrendered in September 1945. The Republic of the Philippines finally became independent in 1946.<sup>61</sup>

The postwar years were heavily influenced by the new country's complex relationship with the United States and a continued push for nationalism. Anti-American sentiment grew as the Philippines sought to establish itself on the world stage and outside of U.S. influence. However, economic and military ties between the countries remained relatively strong.<sup>62</sup>



**The Japanese government surrenders on 2 September 1945**  
Wikimedia / Army Signal Corps

After Philippine independence from the United States, the two countries signed the Military Base Agreement (MBA) granting the United States the right to establish bases in the Philippines. Filipino soldiers fought alongside the U.S. in Korea while a long-simmering Communist uprising – the Huk Rebellion which originated on the island of Luzon in 1946 – was spreading to Mindanao, until finally ending in 1954. Later on, U.S. forces used Philippine bases as staging areas during the Vietnam War. Thousands of U.S. military personnel and civilians were stationed in the Philippines. In 1992, the MBA expired, and the Philippine Congress refused to renew it. Although U.S. bases closed, the two countries continued military cooperation on defense issues through a series of agreements.<sup>63, 64, 65, 66</sup>

## Ferdinand Marcos and His Legacy



**Ferdinand Marcos bust prior to its destruction in 2002**

*Flickr / angust*

In 1965, Ferdinand Marcos of the Nationalist Party won the presidential election, ushering in a tumultuous political era.<sup>67</sup> In the late 1960s, a Moro Muslim insurgency group named the Moro National Liberation Front rose to prominence, seeking the establishment of an Islamic state in the southern Philippines.<sup>68</sup> This movement, along with a series of violent demonstrations, led Marcos to declare martial law between 1972 and 1981. Marcos's heavy-handed authoritarianism initially received favorable reactions, but popular support deteriorated over time.<sup>69, 70</sup> He was ultimately exiled in 1986 because of corruption and national destabilization.<sup>71</sup>

Marcos's reign left significant political disarray in the country. The next six presidential administrations struggled with coup attempts, reform, corruption, and uneven economic gains. In 1996, Muslim separatists and other insurgents received amnesty in exchange for ending their armed opposition. But the struggle continued intermittently by a number of separatist groups.<sup>72, 73</sup>

## Recent Events

Filipinos were ready for a change in 2016, after six years of Benigno Aquino's administration. That change came in the form of Rodrigo Duterte, the gun-toting mayor who claimed to have rid Davao City of crime. Duterte leveraged his tough-guy image as he promised to fill Manila Bay with the bodies of criminals. After winning the elections in May 2016 by a wide margin, Duterte immediately initiated a brutal war on drugs.<sup>74</sup> Within 15 months of his victory, more than 7,000 alleged drug traffickers and drug users had been killed in encounters with police or in so-called vigilante killings.<sup>75</sup> Human rights groups estimated that up to 13,000 were killed, mostly small-time drug dealers and users, and bystanders, including children.<sup>76, 77</sup> The death of a 17-year-old boy in police custody in August 2017 sparked public protests and demands for a government investigation.<sup>78</sup> Prominent Catholic leaders and human rights groups called for an end to the killings.<sup>79, 80</sup>



**President-elect Duterte meets President Aquino 30 June 2016**

*Wikimedia / NIB-MALACANANG*

After years of lobbying for autonomy in Mindanao, many provinces in southern Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago received limited independence from the Philippine government when they became the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). Established in 1987, ARMM's territory was subsequently



expanded in 2002 to cover portions of Mindanao Island and some islands in the southeast. ARMM was the poorest region in the Philippines and was home to about 11% of the poorest households in the region.<sup>81, 82, 83</sup> The move toward independence did not quell the social unrest; however, political discontent was rampant within the community. Numerous attempts at peace talks culminated in the 2019 creation of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), a newly-defined autonomous region in Mindanao. The BARMM Parliament met for the first time on March 29, 2019.<sup>84, 85, 86</sup>

## Government



*The Provincial Capitol Building in Dipolog City*  
Wikimedia / NIB-MALACANANG

The Philippines is a presidential republic with three branches of government: executive, legislative, and judiciary. The government and original constitution were modeled after those of the United States. The executive branch consists of the president and the president's cabinet and is administered from Malacañang Palace in Manila. The legislative branch has a senate and house of representatives; since 2010, professional boxer Manny Pacquiao has been elected to both chambers of the legislature. The judiciary has 14 Supreme Court justices and chief justice.<sup>87, 88, 89</sup> The Philippines is divided into 80 provinces and 39 independent cities. Cities are divided into neighborhoods called barangays.<sup>90, 91</sup>

## Media

The Philippine constitution protects the freedom of the press, but violence, intimidation, and legal action have significantly undermined the work of journalists. In 2009, one of the deadliest events involving journalists occurred when the Maguindanao massacre claimed the lives of 58 people 12 of whom are believed to have been journalists.<sup>92, 93</sup> The Philippines is one of the most dangerous countries to be a journalist; between 1992 and 2015, only Syria and Iraq had more journalists killed. In response to the violence, the government has set up a safety task force to protect journalists. Defamation is a criminal offense and journalists who report information that is critical of government officials risk prosecution. The quality of journalism is hindered by advertisement disguised as journalism, the popularity of sensational media, and a lack of government transparency.<sup>94, 95</sup>



*A newsstand on the streets in Philippines*  
Flickr / Kenneth Tan

The government-run Philippine Broadcasting Service operates radio stations, a TV station, and the Philippines News Agency. ABS-CBN News features Chavacano content as part of its TV Patrol programming.<sup>96</sup> There are over 600 radio stations in the country and hundreds of newspapers, including newspapers published in English. Cable and satellite TV services are available. There are 119 cell phone subscriptions per 100 residents; most Filipinos access the internet through their phones.<sup>97, 98, 99</sup>

## Important Elements of Economy

Mindanao accounts for 14% of the Philippines' gross domestic product (GDP), but its growth is sluggish, and it has a high poverty rate compared to the rest of the country. The island has the potential for significant growth, however, as it is the country's main source of agricultural products. Minerals are also big business in Mindanao, as large deposits of silver, nickel, coal, sulfur, gypsum, marble, limestone, silica, clay, and phosphate are located there.<sup>100, 101, 102</sup>

The Zamboanga Peninsula's economy is also largely based on agricultural products, as well as agriculture, aquaculture (the rearing of aquatic animals and plants for food), and manufacturing. Seaweed farming, in particular, is significant to the local economy, as are fisheries. Zamboanga City is a modern, international seaport and transshipment point, and one of the nation's wealthiest cities. It is the most successful city on the peninsula and has become known as the Sardine Capital of the Philippines.<sup>103, 104, 105</sup>



*Indigenous workers mine nickel ore  
in Mindanao  
Flickr / Andy Maluche*



*Fishing boats line up along the Pagandian City shoreline  
Wikimedia / whonose8472*

The Philippines is regarded as a regional economic powerhouse, with a GDP annual growth of 6.7% in 2017.<sup>106</sup> With a relatively stable political environment, the government encourages foreign direct investment (FDI), which has been on the rise in recent years. A large, educated, English-speaking workforce and substantial remittances from Filipinos who work abroad sustain the rising economy. The country has seen a dramatic drop in unemployment rates since peaking in 2004;<sup>107</sup> however, estimates in 2017 put 86.6% of adults with wealth below PHP 506,000 (USD 10,000).<sup>108</sup> Many recently created jobs are considered tedious, low paying, and in the

informal sector. Underemployment, which is when an employed person's needs are not met by their employment, remains a significant problem, and poverty is still widespread.<sup>109, 110, 111</sup>

## Ethnic Groups and Languages

Besides the six dialects of Chavacano spoken there, the Zamboanga Peninsula is home to a variety of other speakers or groups. Around one-third of the population is of a different ethnic or cultural group, such as Muslims, Chinese, and Tagalogs.<sup>112, 113, 114</sup>

The Cebuano people are spread throughout much of Mindanao and the Zamboanga Peninsula, but their core is the Visayas, the island group north of Mindanao. They are the second-largest cultural-linguistic group in the Philippines, and their language (Cebuano) is among its dominant languages. The largest Cebuano urban center—and the second largest metropolitan area in the country—is the Cebu City Metropolitan Area, located on the Central Visayan island of Cebu. Some aspects of Spanish culture are mixed into Cebuano culture. The primary religion of the Cebuano people is Catholicism.<sup>115, 116</sup>



**A dancer performs the Jota Zamboangueña traditional dance**

*Wikimedia / Jjarivera*



**Folk singer Úwang Ahádas is a famous Yakan musician**

*Flickr / NCCA Official*

The Yakan people, the original settlers of Basilan Island, are part of the greater Moro group. Their numbers are estimated between 100,000 and 200,000. They speak a language known as Bahasa Yakan. Along with other Muslims of the south, the Yakan resisted Spanish attempts to convert them to Catholicism and have maintained their traditional way of life. Their religion combines indigenous beliefs with formal Islamic practices.<sup>117, 118</sup> The Yakan are acclaimed for their weaving arts and their musical tradition that utilizes various types of vocals and instrumental music. A significant number of Yakans moved to Zamboanga City in 1971 during the war between the Moro National Liberation Front and the government. There they established a weaving center that is now a famous tourist attraction in Zamboanga City.<sup>119, 120, 121</sup>

The Tausug ethnic group, which is part of the greater Muslim community in the region, comprise more than 1.2 million speakers who live in the Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia. Many

Philippines-based Tausug people have migrated to the greater Zamboanga region. The Tausug follow a Sunni Islam way of life while also incorporating indigenous beliefs into their religious practices and traditions. Their economy is primarily agricultural, centered on rice, yams, corn, and other grains. The Tausug are also known for their metallurgy and handicraft ability.<sup>122, 123</sup>



The Subanon, formerly a seafaring people, occupy the interior forested areas of the Zamboanga del Norte Province. Like other groups in the region, they are farmers and fishers. They live in thatched-roof houses built on stilts. Men and women work together in the fields and share domestic and child-rearing responsibilities. Younger generations of Subanon are employed in the private sector and for the government.<sup>124</sup>



*Indigenous Subanen people of Misamis Occidental*  
Wikimedia / Theglennpalacio



# Cultural Orientation | Chavacano

---

## Endnotes for Chapter 1: Profile

- 1 Gregorio C. Borlaza et al, "Philippines," Encyclopædia Britannica, 31 May 2019, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Philippines>
- 2 World History, "The Chavacano or Zamboanga Language," 15 April 2018, <https://worldhistory.us/general/the-chavacano-or-zamboanga-language-spanish-based-creole-tongue-of-the-philippines-a-part-of-culture.php>
- 3 Joshua Project, "Chavakano Creole in Philippines," n.d., [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/11285/RP](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/11285/RP)
- 4 Omniglot, "Chavacano," n.d., <http://www.omniglot.com/writing/chavacano.php>
- 5 Merriam-Webster Dictionary, "Creolized Language," n.d., <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/creolized%20language>
- 6 Paul Morrow, "Chabacano," Pilipino Express, 1 November 2007, <http://www.pilipino-express.com/history-a-culture/in-other-words/69-chabacano.html>
- 7 John M. Lipski, "Chabacano/Spanish and the Philippine Linguistic Identity" Pennsylvania State University, 6 August 2001, <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/19d0/928a2f926e7dcee81abe345b95215a56d10a.pdf>
- 8 George Molina, "Zamboanguenos Chavacanos: Preserving a Language and Identity," Ethnic Groups of the Philippines, 12 December 2011, <http://www.ethnicgroupsofphilippines.com/2012/05/12/zamboangueno-chavacanos-preserving-a-language-and-identity/>
- 9 Ethnologue, "Chavacano," n.d., <https://www.ethnologue.com/language/cbk/18>
- 10 Encyclopædia Britannica, "Zamboanga Peninsula," 20 July 2013, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Zamboanga-Peninsula>
- 11 Ethnic Groups of the Philippines, "Zamboangueno," n.d., <http://www.ethnicgroupsofphilippines.com/people/ethnic-groups-in-the-philippines/zamboangueno/>
- 12 Jane Dacumos, "Asia's Latin City - Zamboanga City," Vigattin Tourism, 25 July 2012, <https://www.vigattintourism.com/tourism/articles/Asias-Latin-City-Zamboanga-City>
- 13 World Atlas, "Philippines," n.d., <https://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/asia/ph.htm#page>
- 14 SPDA Infographics, "Mindanao," 2019, <https://spda.gov.ph/info-graphics/>
- 15 The Columbia Electronic Encyclopedia, "Mindanao," Columbia University Press, n.d., <http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Mindanao.aspx#1-1E1:Mindanao-full>
- 16 Public Broadcasting Service, "Borneo, Island in the Clouds—An Awesome Island," n.d., <http://www.pbs.org/edens/borneo/awesome.html>
- 17 Nations Online, « Map of Southeast Asia Region," n.d., [https://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/map\\_of\\_southeast\\_asia.htm](https://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/map_of_southeast_asia.htm)
- 18 Department of Environment and Natural Resources, "Zamboanga Peninsula," n.d., <http://r9.denr.gov.ph/index.php/about-us/regional-profile>
- 19 Department of Environment and Natural Resources, "Zamboanga Peninsula," n.d., <http://r9.denr.gov.ph/index.php/about-us/regional-profile>
- 20 Department of Environment and Natural Resources, "Zamboanga Peninsula," n.d., <http://r9.denr.gov.ph/index.php/about-us/regional-profile>
- 21 Department of Environment and Natural Resources, "Zamboanga Peninsula," n.d., <http://r9.denr.gov.ph/index.php/about-us/regional-profile>
- 22 Wernstedt, Frederick L., and J. E. Spencer, The Philippine Island World: A Physical, Cultural, and Regional Geography (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1967).
- 23 Smithsonian Institution, "Global Volcanism Program: Malindang," 2019, <https://volcano.si.edu/volcano.cfm?vn=271071>
- 24 UNESCO, "Mt. Malindang Range Natural Park," n.d., <https://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/5029/>
- 25 Peakery, "Mount Dapiak," n.d., <https://peakery.com/mount-dapiak-philippines/>
- 26 Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Region 9 – Zamboanga Peninsula, "Regional Profile," 2019, <http://r9.denr.gov.ph/index.php/about-us/regional-profile>
- 27 Zamboanga, "Zamboanga Islands Water and Peaks," n.d., [https://www.zamboanga.com/islands/zamboanga-islands\\_water\\_and\\_peaks.htm](https://www.zamboanga.com/islands/zamboanga-islands_water_and_peaks.htm)
- 28 Thomson Gale, "Philippines: Climate," Worldmark Encyclopedia of Nations, 2007, <https://www.encyclopedia.com/places/asia/philippines-political-geography/philippines#CLIMATE>
- 29 Climatedemps, "Zamboanga City Climate & Temperature," n.d., <http://www.zamboanga.climatemp.com/>

## Cultural Orientation | Chavacano

---

- 30 Ronald E. Dolan, ed. Philippines: A Country Study. Washington: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1991, <http://countrystudies.us/philippines/>
- 31 Encyclopædia Britannica, "Davao City," 15 May 2013, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Davao-City>
- 32 Davao International Airport, n.d., <https://www.davaoairport.com/>
- 33 Philippines Cities, "Davao City: History," n.d., <https://philippinescities.com/davao-city-davao-del-sur/>
- 34 Encyclopædia Britannica, "Mount Apo," 3 October 2016, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Mount-Apo>
- 35 Zamboanga City, "Republica de Filipinas," n.d., <http://www.zamboangacity.gov.ph/city/>
- 36 Philippines Cities, "Davao City: History," n.d., <https://philippinescities.com/davao-city-davao-del-sur/>
- 37 Encyclopædia Britannica, "Zamboanga City," 23 May 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Zamboanga-City>
- 38 Philippines Cities, "Davao City: History," n.d., <https://philippinescities.com/davao-city-davao-del-sur/>
- 39 Encyclopædia Britannica, "Cagayan de Oro," 15 May 2013, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Cagayan-de-Oro>
- 40 Acadeo, "History of Cagayan de Oro," n.d., <http://aboutcagayandeoro.com/history-of-cagayan-de-oro/>
- 41 Cagayan de Oro, "History of Cagayan de Oro," n.d., <http://cagayandeoro.gov.ph/about-cdo/historical-background>
- 42 Encyclopædia Britannica, "Pagadian," 19 April 2017, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Pagadian>
- 43 Zamboanga del Sur, "Pagadian City History," n.d., <http://www.zamboangadelsur.com/history>
- 44 Thomson Gale, "Philippines: History," Worldmark Encyclopedia of Nations, 2007, <https://www.encyclopedia.com/places/asia/philippines-political-geography/philippines#HISTORY>
- 45 Michael Cullinane, "Philippines: History: Pre-Spanish History," Encyclopædia Britannica, 31 May 2019, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Philippines>
- 46 Michael Cullinane, "Philippines: History: Pre-Spanish History," Encyclopædia Britannica, 31 May 2019, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Philippines>
- 47 Thomson Gale, "Philippines: History," Worldmark Encyclopedia of Nations, 2007, <https://www.encyclopedia.com/places/asia/philippines-political-geography/philippines#HISTORY>
- 48 Ronald E. Dolan, ed. Philippines: A Country Study. Washington: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1991, <http://countrystudies.us/philippines/>
- 49 Encyclopædia Britannica, "Philippines: History: The Spanish Period," 2012, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Philippines/The-Spanish-period>
- 50 Omniglot, "Chavacano," 2012, <http://www.omniglot.com/writing/chavacano.php>
- 51 The Columbia Electronic Encyclopedia, 6th ed., "Mindanao: History," Encyclopedia.com, 21 March 2019, <http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Mindanao.aspx#1-1E1:Mindanao-full>
- 52 Thomson Gale, "Philippines: History," Worldmark Encyclopedia of Nations, 2007, [http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/The\\_Philippines.aspx](http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/The_Philippines.aspx)
- 53 Ronald E. Dolan, ed. Philippines: A Country Study. Washington: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1991, <http://countrystudies.us/philippines/>
- 54 Ronald E. Dolan, ed. Philippines: A Country Study. Washington: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1991, <http://countrystudies.us/philippines/>
- 55 Biography.com, "Jose Rizal Biography," n.d., <https://www.biography.com/people/jos%C3%A9-rizal-39486>
- 56 Biography.com, "Jose Rizal Biography," n.d., <https://www.biography.com/people/jos%C3%A9-rizal-39486>
- 57 Encyclopædia Britannica, "Philippines: The 19th Century," 12 April 2019, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Philippines/The-19th-century>
- 58 U. S. Department of State, Office of the Historian, "The Philippine-American War," n.d., <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1899-1913/war>
- 59 Ronald E. Dolan, ed. Philippines: A Country Study. Washington: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1991, <http://countrystudies.us/philippines/>
- 60 "Zamboanga del Sur: History," Republic of the Philippines, Philippine Information Agency, n.d., <https://pia.gov.ph/provinces/zamboanga-del-sur>
- 61 Thomson Gale, "Philippines: History," Worldmark Encyclopedia of Nations, 2007, <https://www.encyclopedia.com/places/asia/philippines-political-geography/philippines#HISTORY>

## Cultural Orientation | Chavacano

---

- 62 Ronald E. Dolan, ed. *Philippines: A Country Study*. Washington: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1991, <http://countrystudies.us/philippines/>
- 63 Eleanor Albert, "The U.S.-Philippines Defense Alliance," Council on Foreign Relations, 21 October 2016, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/us-philippines-defense-alliance>
- 64 Jose Katigbak, "US, Philippines Agree on 5 Bases Locating under EDCA," Philstar, 20 March 2016, <http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2016/03/20/1564662/us-philippines-agree-5-base-locations-under-edca>
- 65 Prashanth Parameswaran, "Philippine Court Upholds New US Defense Pact," Diplomat, 12 January 2016, <https://thedi diplomat.com/2016/01/philippine-court-upholds-new-us-defense-pact/>
- 66 Encyclopædia Britannica, "Hukbalahap Rebellion," 24 July 2014, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Hukbalahap-Rebellion>
- 67 Malacanang Palace, "Elections of 1965," n.d., <http://malacanang.gov.ph/74702-elections-of-1965/>
- 68 "Moro National Liberation Front," Stanford University Mapping Militant Organizations, n.d., <http://web.stanford.edu/group/mappingmilitants/cgi-bin/groups/view/379>
- 69 New World Encyclopedia, "Ferdinand Marcos," n.d., [http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Ferdinand\\_Marcos](http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Ferdinand_Marcos)
- 70 Encyclopædia Britannica, "Philippines: History: The Marcos and early post-Marcos era: Martial Law," n.d., <https://www.britannica.com/place/Philippines/Martial-law>
- 71 Encyclopædia Britannica, "Philippines: History: The Marcos and early post-Marcos era: The downfall of Marcos and return of democratic government," n.d., <https://www.britannica.com/place/Philippines/Martial-law#ref272973>
- 72 Encyclopædia Britannica, "Philippines: History: The Marcos and early post-Marcos era: The downfall of Marcos and return of democratic government," n.d., <https://www.britannica.com/place/Philippines/Martial-law#ref272973>
- 73 Encyclopædia Britannica, "Moro National Liberation Front," 1 February 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Moro-National-Liberation-Front>
- 74 Michael Ray, "Rodrigo Duterte," Encyclopædia Britannica, 13 September 2017, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Rodrigo-Duterte>
- 75 Helen Flores, "Philippines Drug War Alarms 39 Countries in UN," Philstar, 30 September 2017, <http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2017/09/30/1744077/philippines-drug-war-alarms-39-countries-un>
- 76 J. Weston Phippen, "Is This the End of Duterte's Drug War?" Atlantic, 24 August 2017, <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2017/08/duterte-drug-war/537612/>
- 77 Asian Correspondent Staff, "Philippines: Head of Catholic Church Calls for End to Duterte-Led Drug War," Asian Correspondent, 21 August 2017, <https://asiancorrespondent.com/2017/08/philippines-head-catholic-church-calls-end-duterte-led-drug-war/#JsA2fgzm0s1KYH57.99>
- 78 Felipe Villamor, "Funeral for Teenager Killed by Philippine Police Galvanizes Duterte Critics," New York Times, 26 August 2017, <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/26/world/asia/philippines-teenager-killing-funeral-duterte.html>
- 79 J. Weston Phippen, "Is This the End of Duterte's Drug War?" Atlantic, 24 August 2017, <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2017/08/duterte-drug-war/537612/>
- 80 <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/12/philippines-rodrido-duterte-police-war-drugs>
- 81 Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, "ARMM History," n.d., <https://armm.gov.ph/discover-armm/history/>
- 82 Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, "Demographics," n.d., <https://armm.gov.ph/discover-armm/demographics/>
- 83 Rainier Ronda, "ARMM Remains Philippines' Poorest Region," Philstar, 12 April 2016, <http://www.philstar.com/nation/2016/04/12/1571836/armm-remains-philippines-poorest-region>
- 84 Christian Esguerra, "New Era Dawns For Bangsamoro as Stronger Autonomy Law Ratified," ABS-CBN News, 25 January 2019, <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/01/25/19/new-era-dawns-for-bangsamoro-as-stronger-autonomy-law-ratified>
- 85 The Columbia Electronic Encyclopedia, 6th ed., "Mindanao: History," n.d., <http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Mindanao.aspx>
- 86 Carolyn Arguillas, "BARMM Inauguration Reset Again; New Date is March 29," Minda News, 20 March 2019, <https://www.mindanews.com/peace-process/2019/03/barmm-inauguration-reset-again-new-date-is-march-29/>

## Cultural Orientation | Chavacano

---

- 87 Central Intelligence Agency, "Philippines: Government," The World Factbook, 13 May 2019, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/rp.html>
- 88 BBC News, "Philippines Profile—Timeline," 2 July 2017, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-15581450>
- 89 Laura Wagner, "Boxing Great Manny Pacquiao Wins Senate Seat In the Philippines," 19 May 2016, <http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/05/19/478699594/boxing-great-manny-pacquiao-wins-senate-seat-in-the-philippines>
- 90 Central Intelligence Agency, "Philippines: Geography," The World Factbook, 13 May 2019, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/rp.html>
- 91 Republic of the Philippines: Philippine Statistics Authority, "Seven New Barangays Established in the 3rd Quarter of 2015," 28 October 2015, <https://psa.gov.ph/content/seven-new-barangays-established-3rd-quarter-2015>
- 92 Lyle Turner, "Crime and Punishment in the Philippines," Global Integrity, 21 June 2011, <https://www.globalintegrity.org/2011/06/crime-punishment-philippines/>
- 93 Alastair McIndoe, "Behind the Philippines Maguindanao Massacre, Time, 27 November 2009, <http://content.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1943191,00.html>
- 94 Freedom House, "Freedom of the Press 2016: Philippines," 2016, <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2016/philippines>
- 95 Freedom House, "Freedom of the Press 2017: Philippines," 2017, <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2017/philippines>
- 96 ABS-CBN News, "TV Patrol Chavacano," 3 April 2019, <https://news.abs-cbn.com/tvpatriot/chavacano>
- 97 BBC, "Philippines Profile—Media," 26 April 2016, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-15527446>
- 98 Central Intelligence Agency, "Philippines: Government," The World Factbook, 13 May 2019, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/rp.html>
- 99 Freedom House, "Freedom of the Press 2016: Philippines," 2016, <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2016/philippines>
- 100 Gregorio C. Borlaza et al, "Philippines," Encyclopædia Britannica, 31 May 2019, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Philippines>
- 101 U.S. Geological Survey, "2014 Minerals Yearbook: Philippines," June 2017, <https://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/country/2014/myb3-2014-rp.pdf>
- 102 Business World, "Bringing Mindanao into the Fold," 8 January 2018, <https://www.bworldonline.com/bringing-mindanao-fold/>
- 103 Philippines Travel Guide, "Zamboanga City: Economy," 2018, <http://info.philtravelcenter.com/zamboangacity-economy.php>
- 104 Zamboanga: Asia's Latin City, "Why Do Business in Zamboanga City?" n.d., [http://www.zamboanga.gov.ph/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=770&Itemid=107](http://www.zamboanga.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=770&Itemid=107)
- 105 Department of Environment and Natural Resources, "Zamboanga Peninsula," n.d., <http://r9.denr.gov.ph/index.php/about-us/regional-profile>
- 106 The World Bank, "GDP Growth: Philippines," n.d., <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG?locations=PH>
- 107 CEIC, "Philippines Forecast: Unemployment Rate 198502924," 9 April 2019, <https://www.ceicdata.com/en/indicator/philippines/forecast-unemployment-rate>
- 108 Ian Nicholas Cigarral, "Filipino's Wealth Declines in 2017 as Inequality Widens," PhilStar Global, 22 November 2017, <https://www.philstar.com/business/2017/11/22/1761419/filipinos-wealth-declines-2017-inequality-widens>
- 109 Global Security, "Philippines—Economy," 17 April 2017, <https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/philippines/economy.htm>
- 110 World Bank, "Philippines: Overview," 5 October 2017, <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/philippines/overview>
- 111 Santander Trade Portal, "Philippines: Foreign Investment," October 2017, <https://en.portal.santandertrade.com/establish-overseas/philippines/foreign-investment>
- 112 Ethnic Groups of the Philippines, "Zamboangueno," n.d., <http://www.ethnicgroupsphilippines.com/people/ethnic-groups-in-the-philippines/zamboangueno/>
- 113 Zamboanga del Sur, "Zamboanga del Sur Religion, Ethnic Groups, and languages," n.d., <http://www.zamboangadelsur.com/religion-ethnic-languages>
- 114 Republic of the Philippines, "Region 9 – Regional Profile," Department of Trade and Industry, n.d., <https://www.dti.gov.ph/regions/region9/r9-profile-of-region>

## Cultural Orientation | Chavacano

---

- 115 Encyclopedia Britannica, "Cebuano," 20 January 2015, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Cebuano>
- 116 Encyclopedia Britannica, "Cebu," 14 November 2013, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Cebu>
- 117 Countries and Their Cultures, "Yakan: Religion and Expressive Culture," n.d., <http://www.everyculture.com/East-Southeast-Asia/Yakan-Religion-and-Expressive-Culture.html>
- 118 Countries and Their Cultures, "Yakan: Orientation," n.d., <http://www.everyculture.com/East-Southeast-Asia/Yakan-Orientation.html>
- 119 Traveling Morion, "Zamboanga City: Yakan Weaving Village in Asia's Latin City," n.d., <http://www.travelingmorion.com/2016/06/zamboanga-city-yakan-weaving-village-in.html>
- 120 Virginia Gorlinski, "Yakan," Encyclopædia Britannica, 15 October 2012, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Yakan>
- 121 Gwendalene Ting, "Yakan," Tripod.com, n.d., [http://litera1no4.tripod.com/yakan\\_frame.html](http://litera1no4.tripod.com/yakan_frame.html)
- 122 Encyclopedia Britannica, "Tausug," 19 April 2016, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Tausug>
- 123 Joshua Project, "Tausug, Moro Joloano in Philippines" n.d., [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/15295/RP](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15295/RP)
- 124 Ethnic Groups Philippines, "The Subanen People of Mindanao," 21 March 2016, <http://www.ethnicgroupsphilippines.com/2016/03/21/the-subanen-people-of-mindanao/>

# Cultural Orientation

## Chapter 1 | Assessment

1. The Chavacano language is a Spanish dialect.
2. Most Chavacano speakers live on the island of Mindanao.
3. Zamboanga City is home to important military bases for the Philippines.
4. The majority of Chavacano-speaking Filipinos on Mindanao did not adopt Christianity during the Spanish colonial period.
5. The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) was established in 2019.

Assessment Answers: 1. False; 2. True; 3. True; 4. False; 5. False





*Fort Pilar's Marian shrine and prayer altar*  
Wikimedia / Wowzamboangacity

## Chapter 2 | Chavacano Cultural Orientation

# Religion

## Overview and Background

The Philippines's religious history is extensive and varied. Evidence of animism in early Filipino culture predates the arrival of other religions. By the 14th century, Islam developed a presence in the coastal regions. In the 16th century, Spanish colonists arrived and began converting Filipinos to Christianity en masse, as did the Protestant missionaries of the 20th century. Today, Christianity is so prevalent that the Philippines is often regarded as “the only Christian nation in Asia.”<sup>1, 2, 3</sup>

According to a national census in 2015, about 80% of the total population is Roman Catholic, 9% are of a miscellaneous Christian denomination, approximately 6% are Muslim, and the remaining population either does not claim religious affiliation or belongs to an indigenous minority group. Among Chavacano speakers,



Christianity is similarly dominant, accounting for 95% its more than 1 million people. Roman Catholicism composes roughly half of this statistic.<sup>4, 5</sup>

Despite a separation of church and state dictated by the constitution, religion, in particular, the Catholic Church, maintains significant influence on Filipino politics and society. For example, although the Philippines has one of Asia's fastest-growing birthrates and poor households have an average of five or six children, the Catholic Church opposes family planning initiatives such as government-sponsored contraception programs. As a result, most Filipinos adhere to Catholic viewpoints on divorce and abortion.<sup>6, 7, 8</sup>

In addition to Christianity, many Filipinos practice traditional animist beliefs and worship the Virgin Mary alongside other deities.<sup>9, 10</sup>

## Major Religions

### *Catholicism*



**The San Pedro cathedral in Davao City**  
Wikimedia / Teemu Väisänen

The Philippines has the largest Catholic population in Asia with more than 85 million practicing Catholics.<sup>11, 12</sup> Chavacano speakers are predominantly Roman Catholic, with a large Protestant minority. The Spanish introduced Roman Catholicism to the Philippines in the early 16th century and quickly embarked on a sustained, long-term campaign to convert the indigenous population. To facilitate this, the Spanish forcibly relocated small settlements of Filipinos into larger, more concentrated ones, a process known as *reduccion*. This allowed the Spanish to control the population and collect the taxes levied on these new Filipino Catholics.<sup>13</sup>

The Spanish did allow certain aspects of indigenous Filipino culture to coexist with Catholic beliefs.<sup>14</sup> Roman Catholicism blended its teachings and rituals with traditional animistic beliefs in spirits of the land and the souls of ancestors, and rituals that help cope with the uncertainties of nature (catastrophic weather, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions) and social unrest.<sup>15, 16</sup> Modern Filipino Catholics visit cemeteries to clean the graves and bring offerings of food for the spirits. They often erect shrines, and while most are Christian in nature, some are located on old pagan sites that are used for animistic practices.<sup>17, 18</sup>

## Islam

Islam is the largest minority religion in the Philippines. Most Filipino Muslims are Sunni, with a few Shi'a Muslims in Zamboanga del Sur Province.<sup>19</sup> Islam was introduced during the 14th century by settlers and traders from Borneo and Malaya and soon became prominent among the coastal population. During the 15th and 16th centuries, Islam extended its reach into small enclaves in other parts of the islands, including the northern areas. The Sulu Sultanate, a prominent Muslim state established in the 15th century, included the area now known as Zamboanga City, but no political or religious entity gained significant regional power until the Spanish colonized the islands.<sup>20, 21</sup> In Mindanao, Muslim natives, also known as Moros (Spanish for Moors), resisted Catholic rule.<sup>22, 23, 24</sup>



**The Tulay Central Mosque in Sulu Province**  
*Flickr / Al Jacinto*

## Indigenous Religions



**Two Bulul wooden figures, depicting Bontoc ancestors**  
*Wikimedia / Almogtions*

Indigenous religion in the Philippines was based on ancestor worship and animism, or the belief in nature deities and other invisible forces. These spiritual beings could be harmless or malevolent; some were believed to cause a great deal of destruction when provoked.<sup>25</sup> The strong belief in the spirit world led to the widespread use of totems representing the kindred animal spirit of an individual. Popular totems included crocodiles, snakes, and birds.<sup>26</sup>

Early Filipinos such as the Aetas indigenous group believed in the existence of a Supreme Being, the name of which depended on regional location.<sup>27</sup>

The Tagalogs hold religious cosmology beliefs in which the sun and moon are gods. A new moon signifies that the sun and its moon are united; the full moon represents the point in which they are furthest from each other. Mythologies have important cultural significance in the Filipino notion of cosmic balance.<sup>28, 29</sup>

## The Role of Religion in Government



**The interim Bangsamoro Parliament proposal meeting, 2019**  
*Wikimedia / Presidential Communications Operations Office*

During the colonial period, government and religion were united. The government subsidized missionary activity in exchange for the right to name church officials, and as a result, priests and friars supported the Spanish crown. The Church and the government suppressed local religions but were unable to eradicate them completely. Today, many traditional beliefs are interwoven with Roman Catholic beliefs.<sup>30</sup>

After the Philippines gained independence in 1946, the church retained significant influence over political and social affairs, but it could not sustain

the power it had enjoyed in the colonial state. The 1987 constitution guaranteed freedom of religion and the separation of church and state, but deference toward Catholicism, the most dominant religion in the country, continues and has a strong influence over politics and culture. Organized religions are required to establish tax-exempt status by registering with the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Securities and Exchange Commission.<sup>31, 32</sup>

It is against the law to offend religious feelings, though this law has been enforced on one notable occasion only, in 2010, when a Filipino activist protested against the Catholic Church's opposition to the reproductive health law.<sup>33, 34, 35</sup>

Although separation is guaranteed in the constitution, religion has a strong influence on politics. For example, although 70% of Filipinos support a family planning bill, attempts to pass the bill faced serious opposition from the Catholic Church and its officials for many years.<sup>36, 37</sup> In 2012, the Philippines passed a reproductive health law which provided all Filipinos access to birth control. The Catholic Church strongly opposed the law, and budget constraints and court orders prevented the implementation of the law.<sup>38</sup> In 2017, President Duterte signed an executive order to implement the contraceptive bill. The president also ordered government agencies to expand contraceptive access; as mayor of Mindanao, he advocated for aggressive family planning, showing his inclination to disregard the council of the Catholic Church.<sup>39, 40</sup>



**The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines building**  
*Wikimedia / Patrickroque01*



In 2016, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines issued a voting guide but was careful not to endorse or select any specific candidates.<sup>41</sup>

Divorce in the Philippines is illegal, and having an affair is a criminal offense. Apart from Vatican City, the Philippines is one of the only nations in which divorce is banned.<sup>42, 43</sup> Religious instruction takes place in public schools, but attendance is not required, and the lessons are not funded by the government. Written authorization from parents is required for children to attend religious classes. Religious groups are authorized to dispense materials in public schools. More than 100 madrasas operate in the country and receive some government funding.<sup>44</sup>



**President Duterte and MNLF Chair Misuari meet, 2018**  
*Wikimedia / TOTO LOZANO/PRESIDENTIAL PHOTO*

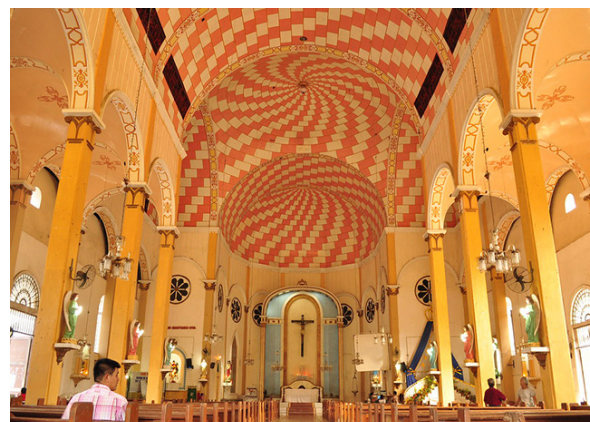
The government has taken steps to address the religious affairs of Muslims and integrate Moro culture and history into public school curricula. Sharia courts are recognized throughout the Philippines, although all such courts are located in Mindanao. The Sharia courts have jurisdiction over Muslim personal interactions, family matters, and property disputes; the state has jurisdiction over cases in which only one party is Muslim.<sup>45</sup>

In 2019, the autonomous territory Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao formed in parts of Mindanao after prolonged attempts to create a regional political entity for Filipino Moros, as part of the government's plan to honor the peace agreements with the Moro community.<sup>46, 47</sup>

## Influence of Religion in Daily Life

Chavacano-speaking Filipinos actively observe the Roman Catholic faith and practices. Many attend church regularly and participate in church-sponsored services and/or activities. They idolize Catholic saints while also believing in alternative spiritual practitioners or faith healers. These healers are believed to have the ability to heal illnesses through prayer or touch.<sup>48</sup>

Catholic Filipinos often defer to religious teachings and beliefs on social issues. Over two-thirds of the population views divorce as morally unacceptable and over 90% object to abortion on moral grounds.



**The Church of Santiago el Mayor in Dapitan City**  
*Flickr / Project Kisame*

Almost 90% of Filipinos have a favorable opinion of the pope.<sup>49, 50</sup> In the aftermath of Super Typhoon Haiyan in 2013, local Catholic churches became a major source of support. Local priests performed blessings for the dead and provided religious support and comfort; churches were a gathering place for recovery efforts, medical care, and social support. Catholic churches took action once again in 2017, after Typhoon Vinta devastated southern Mindanao, by staging fund drives to aid the affected communities.<sup>51, 52</sup>

Religious symbols, relics, and celebrations are important parts of Filipino life. An annual procession through Manila with a four-centuries-old statue of Christ draws a crowd well over a million because of the healing powers attributed to the statue.<sup>53</sup> Over six million Filipinos came to see Pope Francis when he visited in 2015. Many Filipino Catholics believe that the pope's divine authority can bless them.<sup>54</sup> Chavacanos and other Filipino Catholics stage a variety of festivals that honor important religious history or figures.<sup>55</sup> Annual celebrations such as the Zamboanga Hermosa Festival are staged in honor of patron saints or religious figures. This festival, also known as Fiesta Pilar, is staged every October and is the oldest continually celebrated festival in the southern Philippines. The festival includes a regatta, parades, art exhibits, and street dances in honor of the Virgin Mary.<sup>56, 57</sup>



*A Holy Friday procession in Mindanao*  
Flickr /3dom f

## Interfaith Relations



*Muslim and non-Muslim students pose along the waterfront*  
Flickr / Andy Maluche

Relations between Catholics, Muslims, and Protestant groups are typically stable, but conflicts do exist in certain regions of the country. On Mindanao, where Catholics and other Christians are in close proximity to the Moro population, it is common to see good relations on a social level, although there is a long history of violent clashes between the Filipino army and Islamic rebels. Among the Chavacano, biases, and prejudices are often applied against the Tausug Muslim population of the Jolo Island region, and vice versa.<sup>58, 59</sup>

Religious organizations address religious strife and discrimination. In 2017, government-sponsored activities and dialogues during the World Interfaith Harmony Week included the participation of religious figures, government officials, and members of the diplomatic community.<sup>60</sup>

When do you attend Mass?		
Visitor:	Cuando tu tan attende Misa?	When do you attend Mass?
Local:	Na Dominggo.	On Sunday.

Exchange 1

## Religious Holidays



*A priest washes feet in observance of Maundy Thursday*  
Flickr / r.leyesa

Roman Catholic public holidays in the Philippines include Christian celebrations such as Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, All Saints' Day, and Christmas Day. In addition to Christian holidays, there are two Muslim national holidays: Eid-al Adha, also known as the feast of the sacrifice, and Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of Ramadan. Both holidays are observed according to the Islamic lunar calendar, so the dates change every year.<sup>61, 62, 63</sup> Other Muslim holiday observances are celebrated primarily in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and other Muslim-dominated areas.<sup>64, 65</sup>

### *Holy Week (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Black Saturday, and Easter)*

Maundy (or Holy) Thursday kicks off Holy Week, a four-day stretch of holiday observances for Filipino Christians. Maundy Thursday commemorates Christ's last supper when he shared bread and wine with his disciples shortly before his crucifixion. On this solemn day, Christians refrain from eating meat and drinking alcohol. They attend church services, often visiting different churches throughout the day.<sup>66</sup>

Good Friday, which commemorates the death of Jesus, is followed by Black Saturday when Christ was entombed. The next day, Easter Sunday, celebrates Christ's rising from the dead. These holidays fall in March or April.<sup>67, 68</sup>



*Religious suffering in observance of Good Friday*  
Flickr / istoletv

In some rural areas, a small number of Catholics volunteer to be nailed to a cross on Good Friday to emulate Christ's crucifixion. This and other acts of penance, such as self-flagellation, have been turning into tourist attractions in some parts of the countryside.<sup>69, 70</sup> Health officials and Catholic leadership both discourage



these practices, but those who participate feel it is a sign of devotion, and some spectators see it as inspiring.<sup>71, 72, 73</sup> During Holy Week, TV stations typically broadcast solemn or religious programming. Easter Sunday is celebrated with feasts, festivals, religious services, passion plays, and family gatherings. Easter egg hunts take place in Cebu and throughout the Philippines.<sup>74, 75</sup>

## All Saints' Day and All Souls Day



**Flowers left in observance of All Saints' and All Souls Day**  
Flickr / Christina Andrada

These two Catholic holidays take place consecutively, similar to Holy Week, with All Saints' Day on November 1 and All Souls' Day on November 2. All Saints' Day commemorates all martyrs and saints honored by the Catholic Church. All Souls' Day is a day set aside to honor and pray for deceased family members. Most Filipinos visit the graves of family members on All Saints Day, and some even hold an all-night vigil at the grave of a loved one. Others leave flowers or mementos at gravesides or offer prayers for the dead. Family members may also clean and repaint headstones. The holiday, known locally as Undas, has a somber tone.<sup>76, 77, 78</sup>

## Christmas

On Christmas Day families assemble, share food, and exchange gifts. People also decorate their homes with unique, colorful adornments. The *parol* was originally a lantern that resembles the star of Bethlehem, but modern day *parols* are elaborate star-shaped lights and light displays. *Parols* are hung outside homes to symbolize that Joseph and the Virgin Mary are welcome within. Western Christmas symbols, such as the Christmas tree with fake snow and Christmas lights, are also present in the Philippines. Christmas celebrations start as early as September and continue into January. Filipinos celebrate the Christmas holiday with a series of nine pre-dawn masses leading up to Christmas Day. On Christmas Eve, families traditionally gather for a large feast. It is customary for families to attend mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.<sup>79, 80, 81</sup>



**Colorful nativity scene decoration  
in Mindanao**  
Flickr / Gary Todd



## Sinulog

This religious and historical festival is celebrated on the third Sunday in January. *Sinulog*, which means graceful dancing is a traditional worship dance. The festival marks the introduction of Christianity to the region and lasts for nine days, involving dancing, parades, and a reenactment of the events surrounding Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan's arrival to the Philippines in the 16th century. The parades are elaborate, and a variety of organizations participate in the festivities.<sup>82, 83</sup>



***A troop of performers entertain passersby on a Mindanao street***  
Flickr / Richard Parker

## Eid al-Fitr

Eid al-Fitr marks the end of the month-long fasting of Ramadan, which falls at different dates each year because it is based on the Islamic lunar calendar. On this day, Muslims visit friends and family, exchange gifts, give money or food to the poor and share meals. To reflect the spirit of the celebration, adults and children wear bright colors and special clothing.<sup>84</sup>

## Eid al-Adha



***Inside Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhia Mosque***  
Wikimedia / MarkoDalisay

Eid al-Adha, or “the Feast of the Sacrifice,” is a Muslim holiday festival celebrated worldwide. Because it is based on the Islamic lunar calendar, the date shifts each year. Eid al-Adha is considered a holier holiday than Eid al-Fitr and is observed with mass prayer sessions, readings, gift giving, and family gatherings.<sup>85, 86</sup>

## Buildings of Worship

### *San Agustin Catholic Church*



**The Saint Augustine Church, also known as the Paoay Church**  
*Wikimedia / Wowieology*

The oldest Catholic Church in the Philippines is the San Agustin Catholic Church. The building of the church began in 1571 inside the historic walled city of Manila. In its earlier days, the church was called Iglesia y Convento de San Pablo. The church burned to the ground twice before it was officially completed in 1607. During World War II, the church was used as a prison camp by the Japanese and bombed from the air by American and Filipino forces. In 1976, the church was designated a National Historical Landmark by the government, and in 1993 it was added to the UNESCO World Heritage list.<sup>87</sup>

### *Basilica del Santo Nino*

Another church that competes for the title of “the oldest church” is the Basilica del Santo Nino in Cebu City. The church was built in 1565 and destroyed by fire twice. The present building was completed in 1739. The basilica sustained heavy damage from an earthquake in 2013, and repairs to the building were complete in 2016.<sup>88</sup> The basilica houses the statue of the Christ Child, which is the same statue that is placed at the center of the Sinulog Festival.<sup>89</sup> Magellan’s Cross stands near the basilica. This cross is one of the most popular religious artifacts in the country. When Magellan landed on Cebu, he ordered his men to plant a cross; the original cross is encased by the cross on display. Paintings on the inside of the dome depict the planting of the cross and the introduction of Christianity.<sup>90</sup>



**Cebu City’s Basilica Menor del Santo Niño**  
*Flickr / frank soul*

Numerous Christian churches are located on the Zamboanga Peninsula and throughout the Chavacano-speaking region. One of Zamboanga City’s oldest Catholic churches is St. Ignatius of Loyola, in the barangay of Tetuan. Originally named Tetuan Church, it was built by Jesuits in the mid-19th century.<sup>91, 92</sup> Another famous Catholic church in Zamboanga City is the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, constructed from 1998 to 2001, although its parish dates back to 1810. It is one of Mindanao’s most modern churches and serves as the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Zamboanga.<sup>93, 94</sup>

The colorful 19th-century Taluksangay Mosque is also located in Zamboanga City, outside the city center. Muslim scholars from all over the world, including Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Borneo, and India, have made the journey to Taluksangay Mosque.<sup>95, 96</sup> It is Western Mindanao's oldest mosque and was a center for early Islamic missionary activity on the Zamboanga Peninsula.<sup>97</sup>



*The Taluksangay Mosque in Mindanao*  
Wikimedia / Wowzamboangacity

## Behavior in Places of Worship

Worshippers and visitors to places of worship should dress in modest and clean attire. It is important to demonstrate respect while visiting, even if the place of worship has become a tourist destination. The presence of tourists and pilgrims may make for a busy and crowded visit to a place of worship.<sup>98</sup>

## Churches



*Church attendees at Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Philippines*  
Flickr / Glendale Lapastora's Pictures (Official)

Catholic churches represent much of the Philippines' religious and cultural background.

Churches are often the focal points of festivals and large public events, but even amid the joyous atmosphere, it is still important to be respectful of the surroundings.<sup>99</sup> Upon entering a Catholic church, Catholics commonly make the sign of the cross with holy water. Statues and images of Christ are sacred to Filipinos and should be approached quietly, with a respectful demeanor. During services, people should refrain from distracting behavior; food, beverages, and cigarettes should be disposed of before entering.<sup>100</sup>

May I enter the church?		
Visitor:	Puede ba yu entra na Iglesia?	May I enter the church?
Local:	Si	Yes.

*Exchange 2*

Visitors should dress modestly and avoid wearing revealing or threadbare clothing. Reasonable attire includes coats and ties for men and long skirts or pants with blouses or sweaters for women. Clothing such as tank tops, short skirts, or form-fitting clothing are not considered appropriate for church.<sup>101, 102</sup>



## Mosques



**Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhia Mosque**  
Wikimedia / MarkoDalisay

If visiting a mosque, visitors should observe polite conduct and modest appearance. Women's clothing should fit loosely, and skirts should not be shorter than knee length. Men should wear loose-fitting pants and a shirt. All clothing should be clean and neat.<sup>103</sup> If others are doing so, women should cover their head with a scarf. Veils are a popular option for female attire.<sup>104</sup>

### Do I need to wear a veil?

Visitor (Female):	Necesita ba yu usa velo?	Do I need to wear a veil?
Local:	No.	No.

*Exchange 3*

In general, visitors to any church, mosque, or another place of worship should follow posted protocols. Once inside, visitors should remain silent when people are praying or meditating, as talking can interrupt prayers or be interpreted as rude behavior. Never bring food or drink into a church or mosque and do not take photographs inside or outside places of worship without permission.<sup>105, 106</sup>

### May I take photographs inside the church?

Visitor:	Puede ba yu saca manga letrato na dentro del Iglesia?	May I take photographs inside the church?
Local:	Si, pero no ma' si tiene misa.	Yes, but not during Mass.

*Exchange 4*



# Cultural Orientation | Chavacano

---

## Endnotes for Chapter 2: Religion

- 1 Jack Miller, "Religion in the Philippines," Center for Global Education: Asia Society, n.d., <http://asiasociety.org/education/religion-philippines>
- 2 Ronald E. Dolan, ed., *Philippines: A Country Study* (Washington: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1991), <http://countrystudies.us/philippines/>
- 3 Philippine History, "Synopsis of Philippine History Pre-Spanish Times," n.d., <http://www.philippine-history.org/>
- 4 Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, U.S. Department of State, "2017 Report on International Religious Freedom—Philippines," 29 May 2018, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2017-report-on-international-religious-freedom/philippines/>
- 5 Joshua Project, "Chabakano Creole in Philippines: Religion," n.d., <https://joshuaproject.net/people-groups/11285/RP>
- 6 Ronald E. Dolan, ed., *Philippines: A Country Study* (Washington: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1991), <http://countrystudies.us/philippines/>
- 7 Michael Lipka, "5 Facts about Catholicism in the Philippines," Fact Tank: News in Numbers, 9 January 2015, <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/01/09/5-facts-about-catholicism-in-the-philippines/>
- 8 My Sinchew, "Philippines: Church Losing Manila's Birth Control Battle," 3 October 2008, <http://www.mysinchew.com/node/16917>
- 9 Ronald E. Dolan, ed., *Philippines: A Country Study* (Washington: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1991), <http://countrystudies.us/philippines/>
- 10 Jack Miller, "Religion in the Philippines," Center for Global Education: Asia Society, n.d., <http://asiasociety.org/education/religion-philippines>
- 11 Michael Lipka, "5 Facts About Catholicism in the Philippines," Pew Research Center, 9 January 2015, <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/01/09/5-facts-about-catholicism-in-the-philippines/>
- 12 World Atlas, "Countries With The Largest Roman Catholic Populations," 27 July 2018, <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/countries-with-the-largest-catholic-christian-populations.html>
- 13 Susan Russell, "Christianity in the Philippines," Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Northern Illinois University, 1997–2012, <http://www.seasite.niu.edu/crossroads/russell/christianity.htm>
- 14 Overseas Missionary Fellowship, "Folk Christianity," n.d., <https://omf.org/ca/portfolio-posts/folk-christianity/>
- 15 Countries and Their Cultures, "Tagalog: Religion and Expressive Culture," n.d., <http://www.everyculture.com/East-Southeast-Asia/Tagalog-Religion-and-Expressive-Culture.html>
- 16 Countries and Their Cultures, "Filipino," n.d., <http://www.everyculture.com/East-Southeast-Asia/Filipino.html>
- 17 Facts and Details.com, "Funerals in the Philippines," n.d., [http://factsanddetails.com/southeast-asia/Philippines/sub5\\_6c/entry-3864.html](http://factsanddetails.com/southeast-asia/Philippines/sub5_6c/entry-3864.html)
- 18 OMF, "Folk Christianity: Beliefs and Practices: Roman Catholic influence," n.d., <https://omf.org/us/portfolio-posts/folk-christianity/>
- 19 Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, U.S. Department of State, "2017 Report on International Religious Freedom—Philippines," 29 May 2018, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2017-report-on-international-religious-freedom/philippines/>
- 20 Josiah C. Ang, "Historical Timeline of the Royal Sultanate of Sulu, Including Related Events of Neighboring Peoples," SEAsite, n.d., <http://www.seasite.niu.edu/tagalog/modules/modules/muslimmindanao/historical-timeline-of-the-royal.htm>
- 21 Jack Miller, "Religion in the Philippines," Center for Global Education: Asia Society, n.d., <http://asiasociety.org/education/religion-philippines>
- 22 Encyclopædia Britannica, "Jolo Island, Philippines," 15 May 2013, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Jolo-island-Philippines>
- 23 Jack Miller, "Religion in the Philippines," Center for Global Education: Asia Society, n.d., <http://asiasociety.org/education/religion-philippines>
- 24 The Columbia Encyclopedia, 6th ed., "Moros," n.d., <https://www.encyclopedia.com/reference/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/moros>
- 25 SEAsite, "Indigenous Religious Beliefs and Cosmology of the Filipino," n.d., <http://www.seasite.niu.edu/tagalog/modules/modules/philippinereligions/article-indigenous-beliefs.htm>
- 26 Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Northern Illinois University, "Indigenous Religious Beliefs and Cosmology of the Filipino," n.d., [http://www.seasite.niu.edu/Tagalog/Modules/Modules/PhilippineReligions/article\\_indigenous\\_beliefs.htm](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/Tagalog/Modules/Modules/PhilippineReligions/article_indigenous_beliefs.htm)

## Cultural Orientation | Chavacano

---

- 27 Ronica Valdeavilla, "The Aeta: The First Philippine People," Culture Trip, 15 May 2018, <https://theculturetrip.com/asia/philippines/articles/the-aeta-the-first-philippine-people/>
- 28 Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Northern Illinois University, "Indigenous Religious Beliefs and Cosmology of the Filipino," n.d., [http://www.seasite.niu.edu/Tagalog/Modules/Modules/PhilippineReligions/article\\_indigenous\\_beliefs.htm](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/Tagalog/Modules/Modules/PhilippineReligions/article_indigenous_beliefs.htm)
- 29 The People of the World Foundation: Education for and about Indigenous Peoples, "The Aeta People," n.d., <http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/text?people=Aeta>
- 30 Encyclopædia Britannica, "Philippines: History," 19 April 2019, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/456399/Philippines>
- 31 Encyclopædia Britannica, "Philippines: Religion," 19 April 2019, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/456399/Philippines>
- 32 Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, U.S. Department of State, "2017 Report on International Religious Freedom—Philippines," 29 May 2018, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2017-report-on-international-religious-freedom/philippines/>
- 33 Freedom House, "Philippines: 2014," Freedom in the World 2014, n.d., <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2014/philippines>
- 34 Nestor Etolle, "Manila Tour Guide Booked for 'Offending Religious Feelings,'" Philippine Star, 2 October 2010, <http://www.philstar.com/news-feature/616820/manila-tour-guide-booked-offending-religious-feelings>
- 35 Thomas Maresca, "Filipino Faces Jail Time for 'Offending Religious Feelings,'" Time, 7 February 2013, <http://world.time.com/2013/02/07/filipino-faces-jail-time-for-offending-religious-feelings/>
- 36 Sunshine Lichauco de Leon, "Philippines Gears Up for Battle Over Reproductive Health Bill," Guardian (UK), 7 September 2012, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2012/sep/07/philippines-battle-reproductive-health-bill>
- 37 Karen Lema, "Philippines Takes on Catholic Church to Push Birth Control, Sex Education," Population Media Center, 4 October 2012, <https://www.populationmedia.org/2012/10/04/philippines-takes-on-catholic-church-to-push-birth-control-sex-education/>
- 38 BBC News, "Philippines Profile—Timeline," 2 July 2017, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-15581450>
- 39 Camila Domonoske, "In Majority Catholic Philippines, Duterte Orders Better Access to Birth Control," NPR, 12 January 2017, <http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/01/12/509462732/in-majority-catholic-philippines-duterte-orders-better-access-to-birth-control>
- 40 Patricia Lourdes Viray, "Duterte Signs EO to Implement RH Law," Philippine Star, 11 January 2017, <http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2017/01/11/1661715/duterte-signs-eo-implement-rh-law>
- 41 Eva Visperas, "CBCP Issues Guidelines to Catholic Voters for 2016," Philippine Star, 30 December 2015, <http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2015/12/30/1537580/cbcp-issues-guidelines-catholic-voters-2016>
- 42 Carlos H. Conde, "Philippines Stands All but Alone in Banning Divorce," New York Times, 17 June 2011, [http://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/18/world/asia/18iht-philippines18.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/18/world/asia/18iht-philippines18.html?_r=0)
- 43 Gin de Mesa Laranas, "Will the Philippines Finally Legalize Divorce," New York Times, 28 July 2016, <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/29/opinion/will-the-philippines-finally-legalize-divorce.html?mcubz=0>
- 44 Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, U.S. Department of State, "2017 Report on International Religious Freedom—Philippines," 29 May 2018, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2017-report-on-international-religious-freedom/philippines/>
- 45 Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, U.S. Department of State, "2017 Report on International Religious Freedom—Philippines," 29 May 2018, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2017-report-on-international-religious-freedom/philippines/>
- 46 Mathew Bukit, "In Mindanao, BARMM is only the Beginning," Diplomat, 12 March 2019, <https://thediplomat.com/2019/03/in-mindanao-barmm-is-only-the-beginning/>
- 47 Sun Star Manila, "Duterte Oaks Comprehensive Peace Road Map," 19 July 2016, <http://www.sunstar.com.ph/manila/local-news/2016/07/20/duterte-oks-comprehensive-peace-road-map-486222>
- 48 Countries and Their Cultures, "The Philippines: Religion," 2012, <http://www.everyculture.com/No-Sa/The-Philippines.html>
- 49 Michael Lipka, "5 Facts About Catholicism in the Philippines," Pew Research Center, 9 January 2015, <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/01/09/5-facts-about-catholicism-in-the-philippines/>

## Cultural Orientation | Chavacano

---

50. Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, U.S. Department of State, "2017 Report on International Religious Freedom—Philippines," 29 May 2018, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2017-report-on-international-religious-freedom/philippines/>
51. Jethro Mullen, "Philippines Typhoon Aftermath: Religion as Solace," CNN, 18 November 2013, <http://www.cnn.com/2013/11/15/world/asia/philippines-typhoon-tacloban-religion/index.html>
52. Soniya Sunny, "Churches in the Philippines collect funds for typhoon victims," Catholic Focus, 29 December 2017, <https://www.catholicfocus.in/churches-philippines-collect-funds-typhoon-victims/>
53. Reuters, "Millions of Devotees in Philippines Join Black Nazarene Procession," 8 January 2017, <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-religion-philippines-black-nazarene-idUSKBN14T00Q>
54. Economist, "Great Masses," 21 January 2015, <https://www.economist.com/news/asia/21640180-popes-record-breaking-flock-was-partaking-very-filipino-tradition-great-masses>
55. The InfoList.com, "Roman Catholicism in the Philippines," n.d., <http://www.theinfolist.com/php/SummaryGet.php?FindGo=Roman%20Catholicism%20in%20the%20Philippines>
56. Philippine Country, "Zamboanga Hermosa Festival," n.d., [http://www.philippinecountry.com/philippine-festivals/zamboanga\\_hermosa\\_festival.html](http://www.philippinecountry.com/philippine-festivals/zamboanga_hermosa_festival.html)
57. Kara Santos, "LOOK: Zamboanga City Celebrates Grand Hermosa Festival," ABS-CBN News, 20 October 2018, <https://news.abs-cbn.com/life/10/20/18/look-zamboanga-city-celebrates-grand-hermosa-festival>
58. Renato Oliveros, "Moro-Christian Coexistence and Conflict in the Philippines," Temple University, Philadelphia, 2002, <https://www.hartsem.edu/wp-content/uploads/Oliveros.pdf>
59. Santosh Digal, "Mindanao: Relations and Dialogue Between Christians and Muslims Continue Despite Violence," AsiaNews, 12 February 2010, <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mindanao:-relations-and-dialogue-between-Christians-and-Muslims-continue-despite-violence-17616.html>
60. Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, U.S. Department of State, "2017 Report on International Religious Freedom—Philippines," 29 May 2018, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2017-report-on-international-religious-freedom/philippines/>
61. Time and Date, "Holidays in Philippines in 2019," 2019, <https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/philippines/2019>
62. Rana Wehbe, "As Asia Celebrates Eid Al-Fitr, Here's What You Need to Know About the Muslim Holiday," Forbes, 27 June 2017, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/ranawehbe/2017/06/27/as-asia-celebrates-eid-al-fitr-heres-what-you-need-to-know-about-the-muslim-holiday/#516074cd7072>
63. CNN, "5 Things You Need to Know About Eid Al-Adha," 12 September 2016, [http://www.cnn.com/2016/09/12/world/eid-adha-tradition-celebration-trnd/index.html](http://www.cnn.com/2016/09/12/world/eid-adha-tradition-celebration/index.html)
64. Time and Date, "Holidays in Philippines in 2019," 2019, <https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/philippines/2019>
65. Nation, "Nov. 20 a holiday in ARMM, other Mindanao area for Prophet Mohammad's birthday," 15 November 2018, <https://www.bworldonline.com/nov-20-a-holiday-in-armm-other-mindanao-areas-for-prophet-mohammads-birthday/>
66. Time and Date, "Maundy Thursday in Philippines," 2019, <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/philippines/maundy-thursday>
67. Time and Date, "Good Friday in Philippines," 2019, <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/philippines/good-friday>
68. Time and Date, "Holy Saturday in Philippines," 2019, <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/philippines/easter-saturday>
69. Quiling Secusana, "Holy Week in the Philippines," News Today Online (Philippines), 12 April 2006, <http://www.thenewstoday.info/2006/04/12/holy-week-in-the-philippines.html>
70. Reuters, "Catholics in Philippines mark Holy Week with Self-Flagellation Ritual," 24 March 2016, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-religion-easter-philippines/catholics-in-philippines-mark-holy-week-with-self-flagellation-ritual-idUSKCN0WQ28V>
71. Raffy T. Cabrisante, "Bargayo's Crucifixion Moves Locals, Tourists," Freeman, 16 April 2017, <http://www.philstar.com/cebu-news/2017/04/16/1690826/bargayos-crucifixion-moves-locals-tourists>
72. Euan McKirdy, "The Crux of the Matter: The Filipinos Crucified on Good Friday," CNN, 25 March 2016, <http://www.cnn.com/2016/03/25/asia/philippines-easter-good-friday-crucifixion/index.html>

## Cultural Orientation | Chavacano

---

- 73 Reuters, "Catholics in Philippines Mark Holy Week With Self-Flagellation Ritual," 24 March 2016, <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-religion-easter-philippines/catholics-in-philippines-mark-holy-week-with-self-flagellation-ritual-idUSKCN0WQ28V>
- 74 Cebu-Philippines, "Holy Week Celebration in the Philippines," n.d., <http://www.cebuphilippines.net/holy-week.html>
- 75 CNN Philippines, "List: Where to Take Your Kids Egg Hunting This Easter Sunday," 24 March 2016, <http://cnnphilippines.com/lifestyle/2016/03/23/Easter-Sunday-Egg-Hunting-2016.html>
- 76 Elfren Cruz, "Undas in Filipino Culture," Philippine Star, 31 October 2013, <http://www.philstar.com/opinion/2013/10/31/1251413/undas-filipino-culture>
- 77 Voice of America, "Philippines Pays Homage to Ancestors for Undas Holiday," 1 November 2013, <https://www.voanews.com/a/philippines-pay-homage-to-ancestors-undas-holiday/1781251.html>
- 78 Pearl Cabiluna, "What Cebuanos Usually Do on All Saints' and All Souls Day," Everything Cebu, 2015, <http://www.everythingcebu.com/lifestyle/culture/what-cebuanos-do-during-all-saints-and-all-souls-days/>
- 79 Mindanao Examiner, "Christmas in Mindanao," 25 December 2006, <http://zamboangajournal.blogspot.com/2006/12/christmas-in-mindanao.html>
- 80 Elfren Cruz, "Celebrate Christmas the Filipino Way," Philippine Star, 21 December 2014, <http://www.philstar.com/opinion/2014/12/21/1405002/celebrate-christmas-filipino-way>
- 81 Sarah Brown, "The Philippines Shows the World How to Celebrate Christmas," CNN, 5 December 2012, <http://www.cnn.com/2012/12/05/world/asia/irpt-xmas-philippines-traditions/index.html>
- 82 Annette O'Neil, "What is the Sinulog Philippine Festival?," USA Today, n.d., <http://traveltips.usatoday.com/sinulog-philippine-festival-109822.html>
- 83 SunStar Philippines, "Sinulog: History," n.d., <http://cebu.sunstar.com.ph/sinulog/history/>
- 84 GMA News (Philippines), "Malacañang Greets Muslims on Eid al-Fitr," 30 September 2008, <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/123954/malaca-ng-greets-muslims-on-eid-al-fitr/story/>
- 85 Agencia EFE, "Filipino Muslims Mark Eid al-Adha with Prayer Session at Public Park," 21 August 2018, <https://www.efe.com/efe/english/world/filipino-muslims-mark-eid-al-adha-with-prayer-session-at-public-park/50000262-3725333>
- 86 Froilan Gallardo, "Muslims mark Eid'l Adha," Minda News, 22 August 2018, <https://www.mindanews.com/top-stories/2018/08/muslims-mark-eidl-adha/>
- 87 Jericho Paul C. Santos, "The History of the San Agustin Church," Artes de las Filipinas, January 2012, <http://www.artesdelasfilipinas.com/archives/119/the-history-of-the-san-agustin-church>
- 88 May Miasco, "Basilica Minore del Santo Nino: Restoring a Historical Landmark," Cebu News, 31 July 2016, <http://www.philstar.com/cebu-news/2016/07/31/1608575/basilica-minore-del-santo-nino-restoring-historical-landmark>
- 89 Lonely Planet, "Basilica Minore del Santo Nino," n.d., <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/philippines/cebu-city/attractions/basilica-minore-del-santo-nino/a/poi-sig/480618/357333>
- 90 Lonely Planet, "Magellan's Cross," n.d., <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/philippines/cebu-city/attractions/magellans-cross/a/poi-sig/480626/357333>
- 91 Zamboanga, "St. Ignatius Parish," n.d., <http://www.zamboanga.com/tetuan/church.htm>
- 92 GCatholic, "Church of St. Ignatius of Loyola," n.d., <http://www.gcatholic.org/churches/asia-east/58508.htm>
- 93 The Pinay Solo Backpacker, "Zamboanga City Tourist Attractions," 3 January 2017, <https://www.thepinaysolobackpacker.com/zamboanga-city-tourist-spots/>
- 94 GCatholic, "Metropolitan Cathedral of the Immaculation Conception," 25 October 2012, <http://www.gcatholic.org/churches/asia/3027.htm>
- 95 Neil Garcia, "Zamboanga: A Paradox in Paradise," TravelSmart.net, 30 October 2012, <http://www.travelsmart.net/article/10000708/>
- 96 Pinasmuna.com, "Taluksangay Mosque in Zamboanga City," 14 October 2013, <https://www.pinasmuna.com/2013/10/taluksangay-mosque-in-zamboanga-city.html>
- 97 Beautiful Mosque Gallery, "Taluksangay Mosque in Barangay—Philippines," n.d., <https://www.beautifulmosque.com/Taluksangay-Mosque-in-Barangay-Philippines>



## Cultural Orientation | Chavacano

---

98 William Saunders, "Appropriate Behavior in Church," Catholic Education Resource Center, n.d., <http://www.catholiceducation.org/en/culture/catholic-contributions/appropriate-behavior-in-church.html>

99 SunStar Cebu, "Editorial: Grounding Piety," 10 January 2016, <http://www.sunstar.com.ph/cebu/opinion/2016/01/10/editorial-grounding-piety-451047>

100 William Saunders, "Appropriate Behavior in Church," Catholic Education Resource Center, n.d., <http://www.catholiceducation.org/en/culture/catholic-contributions/appropriate-behavior-in-church.html>

101 Suzanne Molino Singleton, "Church Etiquette Review," Catholic Online, 13 April 2006, <https://www.catholic.org/news/hf/family/story.php?id=19458>

102 Katrina Angco, "The Six Fix: Church Appropriate Outfits that Pak in the Punch," ABS-CBN Lifestyle, 23 March 2016, <https://lifestyle.abs-cbn.com/articles/1303/the-six-fix-church-appropriate-outfits-that-pack-in-the-punch/>

103 Gregory Rodgers, "Mosque Etiquettes for Southeast Asia Visitors," 11 February 2019, <http://goseasia.about.com/od/travelplanning/a/mosque-dos-and-donts.htm>

104 Louie B. Locsin, "Sunday Best: On Proper Church Attire and Etiquette," Town and Country, 10 April 2017, <https://www.townandcountry.ph/manners-misdemeanors/what-you-shouldn-t-and-should-wear-to-church-a1589-20170410-lfrm2>

105 Fish Eaters, "Attire and Etiquette," n.d., <http://www.fisheaters.com/TLMetiquette.html>

106 William Saunders, "Appropriate Behavior in Church," Catholic Education Resource Center, 2003, <https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/culture/catholic-contributions/appropriate-behavior-in-church.html>

# Cultural Orientation

## Chapter 2 | Assessment

1. Islam is the main religion of Chavacano-speaking Filipinos.
2. Some islands of the southern Philippines successfully resisted the Christian conversion campaign during the Spanish colonial period.
3. In the Philippines, Catholicism arrived about 200 years after Islam.
4. The Spanish government and Catholic hierarchy were opposing forces on Mindanao.
5. Holy Week in the Philippines is the week between Christmas and New Year's Day.

Assessment Answers: 1. False; 2. True; 3. True; 4. False; 5. False



*The Subanen harvest dance at the Kinabayo Festival*  
Flickr / mark navales

## Chapter 3 | Chavacano Cultural Orientation

# Traditions

## Introduction

The Filipino people are generally hospitable and consider honor, dignity, and pride important characteristics of their culture. They are known to easily form friendships and willingly welcome people into their social circles. Filipinos are also often characterized as proud people who make great efforts to put their best face forward in public, including dressing well, even on informal occasions. Filipinos are motivated to conduct themselves appropriately to avoid bringing shame upon themselves and others. Filipinos avoid public displays of emotion, including being critical and angry in public. To experience shame, known as *hiya*, is considered a great disgrace.<sup>1, 2, 3</sup>

Four centuries of colonial governance and influences left a lasting impression on Philippine culture. The strong Catholic influence during this era is still prominent today, as is the widespread use of English, a legacy of the American colonial era. The ethnolinguistic diversity of the Philippines has led to many blended customs and practices with overarching themes and unifying practices. Christian churches are at the heart of many social and family activities throughout the country, in the same manner, that mosques and the Islamic faith are at the center of the lives of Muslim Filipinos.<sup>4</sup>

For the Zamboangueño and the greater Chavacano population, many customs originate in the “old world,” with some alterations thanks to modernity and Westernization.<sup>5</sup> Filipinos, in general, have strong communal family traditions, historically sharing their land and resources. Although the custom of shared land usage was disrupted by the Spanish government, which established private ownership, communal values have remained strong. The culture has assimilated values from the West and blended them with its own Asian heritage.<sup>6</sup>

## Honor and Values

### *Cultural Expressiveness and Directness*

Cultural expressiveness in the Philippines evolved from Chinese, Malayan, Spanish, and U.S. influences over time. When greeting each other, Filipinos will usually make eye contact and move their eyebrows. Eyebrow movement often lets the other person know that they are acknowledged. Although Americans consider eye contact an indication of good character, this custom does not apply in other parts of the world. In Philippine culture (including Chavacano-speaking areas), it is considered rude to stare directly into somebody’s eyes for sustained periods. Staring could be interpreted as aggressive behavior. Intense eye-contact is a cultural sign of provocation that signifies danger. During an introduction, visitors should briefly hold eye contact, then break it. Strangers should avoid being overly direct with their eye contact, as well as with their comments.<sup>7</sup>



**Vice President Binay meets citizens in Eastern Samar Province**  
*Flickr / U.S. Pacific Fleet*

Physical contact is a normal part of interpersonal communication in Filipino culture. Regardless of religion, Filipino women and men often hold hands or (in the case of women) kiss one another on the cheek as a greeting. This is a sign of friendship or kinship; such gestures are reserved for close friends or relatives and are not used to greet visitors.<sup>8,9</sup>

People in all areas of the Philippines are non-confrontational and typically do not respond with “no” to a direct question. Instead, they tend to say “maybe” or otherwise give a subtler response. They speak in a low, calm tone of voice and avoid public expressions of anger. Conversational exchanges with



local people should not be overly direct, but simply friendly and polite. If it is necessary to criticize, one should do so privately and tactfully. Because relations between people are so important, people tend to take things personally. Speaking in an insensitive way could cause the recipient to “lose face” or suffer a loss of status. Making someone lose face is a social insult in the Philippines and within the wider Asian culture.<sup>10, 11</sup>

How are you?		
Visitor:	Times New Roman	Times New Roman
Local:	Na Dominggo.	Fine, very well.

Exchange 5

## Formulaic Codes of Politeness

### Greetings

Greeting customs in the Philippines are generally the same across the country. When greeting someone, it is customary to shake hands, although a handshake is less firm than in the United States and the hand is often held slightly longer as well. Occasionally, a person will show enthusiasm or additional respect by covering the handshake with their free hand.<sup>12</sup> A stranger may greet a woman, but shaking hands is not always appropriate. Women will offer a hand first to indicate that they wish to shake hands. If not, a smile and hand wave is a common alternative.<sup>13, 14</sup> Custom dictates that the most senior or elderly person be greeted first.<sup>15</sup>



Shaking hands at a military award ceremony  
Flickr / U.S. Pacific Fleet

When conversing with elders, it is common to hear *po* or *opo*, which are spoken at the end of sentences to demonstrate respect.<sup>16</sup> Filipino children typically show respect by addressing adults with a title such as “Auntie” (*tita*) or “Uncle” (*tito*). Respect for elders and family is a very important part of Filipino life, and conveying politeness when interacting with others is the best way to endear oneself to others.<sup>17</sup>

In the Philippines, it is important to exercise tact to preserve the honor or standing of others.<sup>18, 19</sup> Address new acquaintances as formally as possible; it is best to err on the side of formality by using a person’s formal title or “Mr.,” “Mrs.,” or “Miss,” followed by the last name. Colleagues can be referred to by their first name.<sup>20, 21, 22</sup>

Losing face (*hiya*), status, can create shameful feelings and hurt relationships. Raising one’s voice and interrupting are interpreted as disrespectful. Maintaining a nonconfrontational tone is important. *Pakikisama*, the concept of unity and smooth interpersonal relations, is especially important when working with a group.<sup>23</sup>

## Male/Female Interactions



*Friendly gathering of women in Mindanao*  
Flickr / Burgermac

Many Filipinos have argued that the legal system is insensitive toward women, and women face judicial biases from the barangay to the national level. Although two women, Corazon Aquino, and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, have been president of the Philippines, politics is dominated by powerful political factions that have limited female participation. Incidents of domestic violence and sexual harassment against women are widespread and underreported.<sup>24</sup>

Although women are protected from discriminatory hiring practices, they continue to face job and hiring discrimination. Divorce is currently not legal in the Philippines, so informal separations and annulments are common ways to escape a marriage. There is a growing movement to legalize divorce, however.<sup>25, 26</sup> Many women have been subjected to human trafficking domestically and internationally. The Philippines has met minimum standards to fight trafficking and has aggressively prosecuted traffickers, according to a 2017 report.<sup>27</sup> The country is seeing a focus on improving conditions for women. Local government and educational institutions are attempting to promote women's empowerment and equality and reduce social obstacles.<sup>28, 29</sup>

Although women are protected from discriminatory hiring practices, they continue to face job and hiring

When do you attend Mass?		
Visitor:	Buenas dias!	Good morning!
Local:	Times New Roman	Good morning to you!

*Exchange 6*

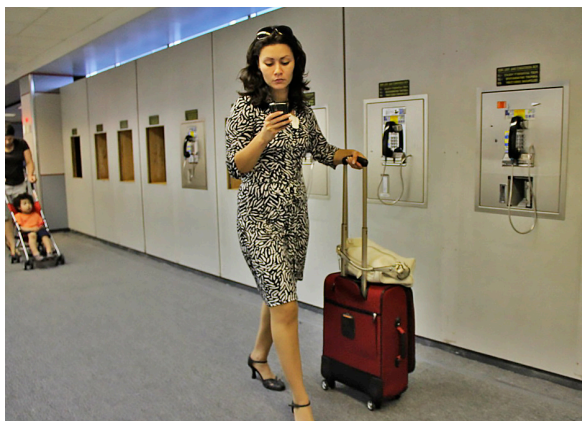
## Hospitality and Gift-Giving

### *Social Dynamics*

Filipinos value a calm and nonconfrontational atmosphere in social settings. The answer “yes” can have a variety of meanings. An answer of “maybe” or “I’ll think about it” is likely a polite way of saying no. Negative feedback should remain polite and constructive. Filipinos often use hand gestures to express themselves; it is important to pay attention to body language.<sup>30, 31</sup>



*A Filipino family entertains guests*  
Flickr / Ricecake



**A businesswoman checks her phone while traveling**

*Flickr / Matthew Hurst*

Texting is an important mode of communication. It is not offensive for someone to take a call or send a text during a meeting, or to use a text message to convey important information.<sup>32</sup> On average, Filipinos spend over four hours a day on social media sites; about 58% of the nation uses social media. Mobile internet speeds are among the fastest in the region, and mobile device use has helped the growth of social media. The Philippines is considered the texting capital of the world. Facebook Messenger and Whatsapp are popular forms of communication.<sup>33, 34, 35</sup>

In business settings, meetings do not always start promptly. Filipinos apply the concept of punctuality very broadly, as factors such as traffic and weather may delay a meeting. In a business setting, one may be asked questions that Americans consider personal. Filipinos aren't being rude or nosy when they ask such questions; they are simply trying to become better acquainted.<sup>36</sup>

Hi, Mr. Álvarez! (Informal)		
Visitor:	Hi, Senor Alvarez!	Hi, Mr. Álvarez!
Local:	Que tal!	Hello!
Visitor:	Tu ba bueno ta men?	Are you doing well?
Local:	Si	Yes.

*Exchange 7*

## House Guests

If invited to visit a Filipino household, it is polite to compliment the home. Guests should not arrive exactly on time. Doing so could make the guest seem greedy and place the host family in an embarrassing position. Punctuality is not regarded as polite. Rather, it is better to arrive approximately 15 minutes after the appointed time. In rural homes, shoes are almost always removed upon entering a person's home; in urban settings, this custom is less common. Some homes will have slippers available for walking around the house.<sup>37</sup>



**A family gathering on Mindanao**

*Flickr / Gary Todd*



It is considered offensive to decline food, even if you have just finished a meal. When getting ready to eat, visitors should wait to be instructed where to sit and when to start serving yourself. Typically, all courses of a meal are served at the same time. A spoon in the right hand is used to guide food onto the fork held in the left hand. After a visit, it is a good idea to show gratitude by leaving or sending a thank you note.<sup>38</sup>

Guests should not refer to the host's wife as "the hostess," which in the Philippines is the same as calling her a "prostitute." Unless invited to use her first name, address the wife of the host by her title or her surname, preceded by "Mrs.,"<sup>39</sup>



*Dinner guests in a Filipino home in Tagbilaran  
Flickr / Nareas Sae-Khow*

## Gift Giving



*Flower as a popular gift option  
in Philippines  
Flickr / Richard Parker*

A visitor does not need to bring a gift when invited into a local's home unless the occasion is formal. People who have not seen each other in a long time often bring each other a gift.<sup>40</sup> Flowers are popular gift options, although certain flowers are more appropriate for specific situations.<sup>41</sup> Filipinos do not generally open gifts in front of the giver, as doing so can be interpreted as a sign of greed and may embarrass the giver.<sup>42</sup>

The presentation of a gift is very important; the elegance of the gift-wrapping shows the amount of thought that was put into the gift itself. Colorful wrapping will give the recipient a good first impression. Giving small electronics, books, and souvenirs is acceptable and common. Gifts may be unwrapped at a later time, as the opening of gifts is considered a private matter. Food baskets are not a good gift idea because the recipient might get the impression that the gift giver thinks they are poor.<sup>43, 44</sup>

I really appreciate your hospitality.		
Guest:	Gracias na dituyu buen custumbre	I really appreciate your hospitality.
Host:	Gracias tam bien	It's my pleasure.

*Exchange 8*



## Eating Habits/Types of Food

### Cuisine



A paella dish in Davao City

Flickr / Anton Diaz

Spanish, Chinese, and Malay influences are present in Filipino food throughout Zamboanga and Mindanao today. The Spanish influence on cuisine is considered the strongest in the country. Rice is a major staple and can be served at any meal. Other staples are pork, chicken, coconut, fish, fruits, and vegetables.<sup>45, 46, 47</sup> Spanish influence is also prominent in the ingredients used and the Spanish names given to dishes, such as *paella* (a mixture of rice, meat, seafood, and saffron), *adobo* (meat stewed in vinegar and spices), and *arroz caldo* (rice and chicken porridge). In the Chavacano-speaking regions and throughout Mindanao, prepared foods have relatively milder flavors than elsewhere.<sup>48</sup>

One of the most iconic foods is *lechon*, which is a slow-roasted suckling pig. The pig is often stuffed with rice and vegetables, but there are many different ways of preparing it.<sup>49</sup> A popular breakfast dish in Mindanao is *satti*, a skewer of different meats served with a sweet and spicy sauce and a side of rice. *Curacha* is particularly popular in Zamboanga; this dish consists of crab cooked with a special sauce. *Paella Chavacana* is similar to standard *paella* dishes—rice-based with prawns, clams, green beans, and peas as toppings.<sup>50, 51</sup> One of the most well-known Filipino delicacies is *balut*, an 18-day old fertilized duck egg; the embryo is somewhat developed, so the texture of *balut* is quite unique.<sup>52</sup>



Lechon: Pigs roasting over coals

Flickr / whologwhy

#### The food tastes so good.

Guest:	El cumida bien sabroso	The food tastes so good.
Host:	Gracias na dituyu complemente	Thanks for the compliment.

Exchange 9

### The roasted pork is delicious.

Guest:	El asado puerco bien sabroso gayot	The roasted pork is delicious.
Host:	Este Lechon	It's lechon.

Exchange 10

Local ingredients are preferred in Filipino cooking. Favorite spices and flavoring agents include garlic, vinegar, herbs, and peanut sauce. Many main dishes include coconuts, evidence of the cuisine's Malay influences. The flesh and liquid from coconuts are used to prepare everything from vegetables and meats to rich desserts.<sup>53</sup>

American fast food restaurants, such as KFC and McDonalds, are popular in urban areas, as is Jollibee, a popular Filipino fast-food chain that serves food such as burgers, chicken, and noodles. The increase in the number of white-collar workers, the new value of convenience, and urbanization have all contributed to an increase in the popularity of fast food.<sup>54, 55, 56</sup>

## Meals



A serving of *Ginataang bilo bilo* with *langka*

Flickr / Anton Diaz

Eating is an important part of communal life in the Philippines. Filipinos may eat as many as five small meals a day, or simply snack between breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Breakfast is generally served between 7:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. and is light fare, served with rice and tea or coffee. Rice dishes are often eaten as a porridge dish flavored with eggs or pickled vegetables. A snack called *merienda* is customarily taken between 10 a.m., and 4 p.m. Lunch is the main meal and is eaten from around noon to 1 p.m. A typical lunch comprises a protein such as meat or fish, accompanied by rice and a sweet dessert. Appetizers are served during happy hour, and it is common to have a dessert in the evening.<sup>57</sup> In rural areas, family members often sit down together to eat as a group. This custom is less common in urban settings, where residents lead a faster-paced lifestyle.<sup>58</sup> Dinner can be served as early as 6 p.m. or as late as 7:30 p.m. Dinner is lighter than lunch, yet the menu is often similar. Meals are often served buffet-style so that everyone can take as much as they want.<sup>59, 60</sup>

### What is the name of this dish?

Visitor:	Cosa el nombre del este potaje?	What is the name of this dish?
Local:	Este pancit	This is pancit.

Exchange 11

## Dress Codes



**A church choir featuring traditional outfits**  
Flickr / Italo Montiglio

With somewhat unpredictable weather that alternates between wet and dry seasons, attire is an important consideration in the Philippines. Practical clothing, meaning clothes that are light, breathable, and loose-fitting, are generally appropriate throughout the country. Filipino clothing is often characterized as conservative, and foreigners are expected to at least dress as conservatively as the locals. When visiting landmarks, it is recommended to dress in a more formal manner out of respect.<sup>61, 62</sup> Traditional wear, such as the elaborately decorated *mascota* gowns, are seen during celebrations like the Zamboanga Hermosa Festival.<sup>63, 64</sup>

Is this acceptable to wear?		
Visitor:	Quando tu tan attende Misa?	Is this acceptable to wear?
Local:	Na Dominggo.	Yes.

Exchange 12

Business attire is similar to that found in Western countries. Suits, ties, and grooming are important considerations. It is recommended that earrings not be worn by men and that any facial hair be neatly groomed when dressing for business. The *barong tagalog*, or simply *barong*, is the traditional and formal dress shirt for men. The barong features intricate embroidery and is worn untucked.<sup>65</sup>



**Family photo featuring barong tagalog shirts**  
Flickr / Antiporda Productions



## Non-Religious Celebrations (Holidays)

While the Philippines observes a number of religious holidays throughout the year, Filipinos celebrate a number of other non-religious holidays as well. Most holidays are celebrated throughout the country, with a few that are more popular based on region or historical and/or religious significance.<sup>66</sup>

### *Dia de la Ciudad de Zamboanga*

Since 2016, the Charter Day anniversary holiday has been officially recognized in Zamboanga City. Every 26 February, Filipinos in the region celebrate the date in which the city was formally inaugurated. Festivities include dances, awards, and a large parade.<sup>67, 68</sup>

### *Bataan Day*

Also called Araw ng Kagitingan or Day of Valor, Bataan Day is a national holiday that takes place on 9 April or the closest Monday.<sup>69</sup> It honors the soldiers taken prisoner on 9 April 1942, when Allied forces on the Bataan Peninsula surrendered to the Japanese after running out of food and supplies. Along with American soldiers, thousands of Filipinos were forced on the grueling “Bataan Death March,” walking approximately 100 km (62 mi) to a Japanese prison camp.<sup>70, 71</sup>

### *Independence Day*



*A woman waves flags at an Independence Day celebration*  
Flickr / Jhun3lle Sardido



*The Mount Samat Memorial Cross*  
Flickr / donutjar

This national holiday originated on 12 June 1898, when General Emilio Aguinaldo proclaimed independence from foreign rule. The Philippines’ independence was originally recognized on 4 July, the date in 1946 when the Philippines became independent of U.S. rule. The date to celebrate independence was changed to 12 June by President Macapagal in 1962 and signed into law in 1964, in order to inspire greater national pride. The 4 July date is still acknowledged as Republic Day.<sup>74, 75</sup>



## Labor Day

Labor Day, observed on May 1, is an international holiday that honors workers.<sup>72</sup> The Philippines' first labor federation, Union Obrera Democratica (UOD), was founded in 1903. Subsequent labor organizations sought to abolish child labor, to establish an 8-hour workday, and to improve working conditions for women.<sup>73</sup>

## Ninoy Aquino Day

This national holiday acknowledges the date former Senator Benigno “Ninoy” Aquino, Jr. was assassinated. A committed opponent of the authoritarian President Ferdinand Marcos, Aquino had just returned from exile when he was shot and killed on 21 August 1983. His death provoked widespread rebellion against Marcos and fomented the EDSA Revolution that took place in 1986.<sup>76, 77</sup>



*The Ninoy Aquino monument at the Pampanga Provincial Capitol*

*Wikimedia / Ramon Fvelasquez*

## EDSA Revolution Day

This public holiday in late February, also referred to as the People Power Revolution, celebrates President Marcos' forced resignation in 1986.<sup>78</sup> The acronym EDSA stands for a highway, Epifanio de los Santos Avenue, which encircles Manila and was the location of many anti-Marcos demonstrations.<sup>79</sup>

## National Heroes Day

This holiday, held on the last Monday of August, officially honors Filipino national heroes that strove for the country's independence throughout history. Notable people honored are Jose Rizal, Andres Bonifacio, Juan Luna, and Gabriela Silang.<sup>80, 81</sup>

## Bonifacio Day

Bonifacio Day, at the end of November, honors the birthday of Andres Bonifacio. One of the Philippines' most revered national leaders, Bonifacio led the revolutionary group Katipunan, whose members fought against Spanish rule. Bonifacio was captured by the Spanish and executed in 1897, shortly before



*Wreath laying ceremony on Bonifacio Day*

*Wikimedia / Gil Calinga for the Philippine News Agency*

the country transitioned out of Spanish rule.<sup>82, 83</sup>

Happy Rizal Day!		
Visitor:	Feliz Rizal Dia!	Happy Rizal Day!
Local:	Feliz tam bien contigo!	Same to you, too!

*Exchange 13*

## Rizal Day



**Rizal Day ceremonies in 1949**  
Wikimedia / Malacañang Palace

Rizal Day on 30 December commemorates the martyrdom of the national hero of the Philippines, Dr. Jose Rizal, who fought for independence from Spain.<sup>84</sup> In his youth, he left the Philippines for Spain, where he completed his medical degree. Dr. Rizal then traveled throughout the world, mastered several languages, and became educated in business, education, and agriculture. His pro-reform writings were massively influential in the Philippines, causing Spanish rulers to fear his influence. On 30 December 1896, Spanish officials executed Dr. Rizal for “rebellion, sedition, and... forming an illegal association.”<sup>85</sup>

## Other Cultural Traditions/Norms

The Chavacano people, like the rest of the Philippines, exhibit a number of cultural influences from centuries of interactions and periods of occupations from outside cultures. Given that Chavacano is a Philippine Creole Spanish language, Spanish influences are felt the strongest and are reflected in Chavacano traditions and norms, to the point that it is all but impossible to identify any beliefs and practices outside of these influences, which are characterized as “old world courtesy.” The Zamboanga Chavacano have a number of traditional songs and dances, featuring Spanish and Iberian influences, that are prominently featured in local events such as the Hermosa Festival or Zamboanga Song Festival.<sup>86, 87, 88</sup>



**Performers at the Hermosa Festival in Zamboanga City**  
Flickr / Bro. Jeffrey Pioquinto, SJ

## Dos and Don'ts

### *Dos*

- **Do** smile as a greeting to be friendly.
- **Do** wear simple clothes when going out so as not to stand out.
- **Do** remove your shoes before you enter a place of worship or homes in rural areas.
- **Do** compliment the hostess on the house.
- **Do** take the time to wrap gifts elegantly before presenting them to a host.
- **Do** eat if offered, even if you have recently eaten, as a courtesy.
- **Do** eat with your fork in your left hand.

### *Don'ts*

- **Do not** stare at or make advances to women in public or private.
- **Do not** engage in overt expressions of affection with the opposite sex.
- **Do not** point to anybody with an index or middle finger. Use the entire right hand instead.
- **Do not** criticize or express anger publicly, or cause a person to lose face in public.
- **Do not** blow your nose in public or at a dinner table.
- **Do not** point upward with the middle finger. It is obscene in the United States and equally in the Philippines.
- **Do not** use obscene or indecent language within earshot of Filipino citizens. Many are familiar with American slang.
- **Do not** beckon a resident to you with a forefinger. It is disrespectful.
- **Do not** wear sandals on special occasions.

- **Do not** use the thumb-and-forefinger “OK” sign in public. It means money.
- **Do not** refuse the offer of food when an invitation to a meal is extended.
- **Do not** raise your voice in public.
- **Do not** brag.



# Cultural Orientation | Chavacano

---

## Endnotes for Chapter 3: Traditions

- 1 eDiplomat, "Philippines," n.d., [http://www.ediplomat.com/np/cultural\\_etiquette/ce\\_ph.htm](http://www.ediplomat.com/np/cultural_etiquette/ce_ph.htm)
- 2 Lucy Debenham, "The Philippines and Travel Etiquette," Travel Etiquette, 18 July 2010, <http://www.traveletiquette.co.uk/philippines-and-travel-etiquette.html>
- 3 Lucy Debenham, "The Philippines and Travel Etiquette: Hiya," Travel Etiquette, 18 July 2010, <http://www.traveletiquette.co.uk/philippines-and-travel-etiquette.html>
- 4 Carolina G. Hernandez and Gregorio C. Borlaza, "Philippines: Sports and Recreation," Encyclopedia Britannica, 26 April 2019, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Philippines>
- 5 Zamboanga: Asia's Latin City, "Customs and Traditions," 9 August 2005, [http://www.zamboanga.gov.ph/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=206&Itemid=28](http://www.zamboanga.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=206&Itemid=28)
- 6 Carolina G. Hernandez and Gregorio C. Borlaza, "Philippines: Sports and Recreation," Encyclopedia Britannica, 26 April 2019, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Philippines>
- 7 Ronica Valdeavilla, "Your Guide to Filipino Gestures," Culture Trip, 7 November 2018, <https://theculturetrip.com/asia/philippines/articles/your-guide-to-filipino-gestures/>
- 8 CultureGrams Online Edition, "Republic of the Philippines: General Greetings," n.d., [http://online.culturegrams.com/world/world\\_country\\_sections.php?cid=126&cn=Philippines&sname=Greetings&snid=8](http://online.culturegrams.com/world/world_country_sections.php?cid=126&cn=Philippines&sname=Greetings&snid=8)
- 9 Aspect Foundation, "The Philippines: Customs," n.d., <https://aspectfoundation.org/host/philippines.html>
- 10 CultureGrams Online Edition, "Republic of the Philippines: General Attitudes," n.d., [http://online.culturegrams.com/world/world\\_country\\_sections.php?cid=126&cn=Philippines&sname=General\\_Attitudes&snid=6](http://online.culturegrams.com/world/world_country_sections.php?cid=126&cn=Philippines&sname=General_Attitudes&snid=6)
- 11 Cultural Arts, "Filipino Culture: Communications," n.d., <https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/filipino-culture/filipino-culture-communication>
- 12 CultureGrams Online Edition, "Republic of the Philippines: Greetings," ProQuest and Brigham Young University, n.d., [http://online.culturegrams.com/world/world\\_country\\_sections.php?contid=3&wmn=Asia&cid=126&cn=Philippines&sname=Greetings&snid=8](http://online.culturegrams.com/world/world_country_sections.php?contid=3&wmn=Asia&cid=126&cn=Philippines&sname=Greetings&snid=8)
- 13 Cultural Arts, "Filipino Culture: Naming," n.d., <https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/filipino-culture/filipino-culture-naming>
- 14 eDiplomat, "Cultural Etiquette: Philippines," n.d., [http://www.ediplomat.com/np/cultural\\_etiquette/ce\\_ph.htm](http://www.ediplomat.com/np/cultural_etiquette/ce_ph.htm)
- 15 Lucy Debenham, "The Philippines and Travel Etiquette: Meeting and Greeting," Travel Etiquette, 18 July 2010, <http://www.traveletiquette.co.uk/philippines-and-travel-etiquette.html>
- 16 Proudly Pinoy, "Po and Opo," 17 January 2008, <http://tekapnoy.blogspot.com/2008/01/po-and-opo.html>
- 17 Everything Filipino, "Filipino Culture: Getting to Know the Filipino People via Filipino Traditions," n.d., <https://everything-filipino.com/filipino-culture-getting-to-know-the-filipino-people-via-filipino-traditions/>
- 18 Jose C. Sison, "Delicadeza," Philippine Star, 21 May 2012, <http://www.philstar.com/opinion/808825/delicadeza>
- 19 Leonor Magtolis Briones, "Redefining Delicadeza—Leonor Magtolis Briones," ABS-CBN News, 17 August 2017, <http://news.abs-cbn.com/views-and-analysis/08/16/09/redefining-delicadeza-leonor-magtolis-briones>
- 20 Mary Murray Bosrock, Asian Business Customs & Manners: A Country-by-Country Guide [https://books.google.com/books/about/Asian\\_Business\\_Customs\\_Manners.html?id=0yoauVW1ipMC](https://books.google.com/books/about/Asian_Business_Customs_Manners.html?id=0yoauVW1ipMC)
- 21 Christina Hamlett, "Business Etiquette in the Philippines," USA Today, n.d., <http://traveltips.usatoday.com/business-etiquette-philippines-16184.html>
- 22 Facts and Details, "Customs, Etiquette, and Manners in the Philippines," n.d., [http://factsanddetails.com/southeast-asia/Philippines/sub5\\_6c/entry-3869.html](http://factsanddetails.com/southeast-asia/Philippines/sub5_6c/entry-3869.html)
- 23 Teresita Tanhueco-Tumapon, "Who Are We Filipinos?" Manila Times, 24 April 2015, <http://www.manilatimes.net/who-are-we-filipinos/177987/>
- 24 American Bar Association, "Access to Justice Assessment for Philippines: Mindanao," January 2012, [https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/directories/roli/philippines/philippines\\_access\\_to\\_justice\\_assessment\\_2012.authcheckdam.pdf](https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/directories/roli/philippines/philippines_access_to_justice_assessment_2012.authcheckdam.pdf)
- 25 Tasha Wibawa, "The Philippines is one of two countries where divorce is illegal, trapping women in marriages," ABCNews.net.au, 8 October 2018, <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-10-09/the-philippines-is-one-of-two-countries-where-divorce-is-illegal/10332600>

## Cultural Orientation | Chavacano

---

- 26 Michael Sullivan, "Divorce Is Prohibited in the Philippines, but Moves Are Underway to Legalize It," NPR, 23 May 2018, <https://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2018/05/23/613335232/divorce-is-prohibited-in-the-philippines-but-moves-are-underway-to-legalize-it>
- 27 Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, "2017 Trafficking in Persons Report: Philippines," US State Department, n.d., <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/271344.pdf>
- 28 Michelle Joy L. Padayhag, "Men Urged to Promote Gender Equality," Cebu Daily News, 24 March 2015, <http://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/53515/men-urged-to-promote-gender-equality>
- 29 Cherry Piquero-Ballescás, "SDG 5: Gender Equality, Women Empowerment," Freeman, 9 February 2017, <http://www.philstar.com/freeman-opinion/2017/02/09/1670485/sdg-5-gender-equality-women-empowerment>
- 30 Communicaid, "The Philippines: Philippine Culture—Key Concepts and Values," n.d., <https://www.communicaid.com/country/the-philippines/>
- 31 Philippine Primer, "Understanding Filipinos through Body Language," 22 July 2016, <http://primer.com.ph/tips-guides/2016/07/22/understanding-filipinos-through-body-language/>
- 32 Communicaid, "The Philippines," n.d., <https://www.communicaid.com/country/the-philippines/>
- 33 Louella Desiderio, "Most Time Spent on Social Media: PH Ranks 1st," Philippine Star, 25 January 2017, <http://www.philstar.com:8080/headlines/2017/01/25/1665884/most-time-spent-social-media-ph-ranks-1st>
- 34 Miguel R. Camus, "PH World's No. 1 in Terms of Time Spent on Social Media," Philippine Daily Inquirer, 24 January 2017, <http://technology.inquirer.net/58090/ph-worlds-no-1-terms-time-spent-social-media>
- 35 Nike, "Inside Access: Basketball's Deep Roots in the Philippines," 5 February 2013, <https://news.nike.com/news/inside-access-basketballs-deep-roots-in-the-philippines>
- 36 International Trade Administration, "Philippines—Business Customs," 28 June 2017, <https://www.export.gov/article?id=Philippines-Business-Customs>
- 37 Jeffrey Hays, "Home Customs in the Philippines, Facts and Details, 2015, [http://factsanddetails.com/southeast-asia/Philippines/sub5\\_6c/entry-3869.html](http://factsanddetails.com/southeast-asia/Philippines/sub5_6c/entry-3869.html)
- 38 Christina Hamlett, "Food Culture in the Philippines," USA Today, n.d., <http://traveltips.usatoday.com/food-culture-philippines-17408.html>
- 39 Lucy Debenham, "The Philippines and Travel Etiquette: Dining and Gift Giving Etiquette," Travel Etiquette, 10 July 2010, <http://www.traveletiquette.co.uk/philippines-and-travel-etiquette.html>
- 40 CultureGrams Online Edition, "Republic of the Philippines: Visiting," 2019, [https://online.culturegrams.com/world/world\\_country\\_sections.php?cid=126&cn=Philippines&sname=Visiting&snid=26](https://online.culturegrams.com/world/world_country_sections.php?cid=126&cn=Philippines&sname=Visiting&snid=26)
- 41 Philippine Primer, "Flower-Giving in the Philippines: Explaining the PH Culture and Tradition," 16 October 2018, <http://primer.com.ph/tips-guides/2018/10/16/flower-giving-in-the-philippines-explaining-the-ph-culture-and-tradition/>
- 42 Commisceo Global, "Philippines—Language, Culture, Customs and Etiquette," 2019, <https://www.commisceo-global.com/resources/country-guides/philippines-guide>
- 43 Christina Hamlett, "Business Etiquette in the Philippines," USA Today, n.d., <http://traveltips.usatoday.com/business-etiquette-philippines-16184.html>
- 44 Tanya, "Learning the Social Customs of the Philippines," Expatify, n.d., <https://www.expatify.com/philippines/learning-the-social-customs-of-the-philippines.html>
- 45 Everything Filipino, "Filipino Food: Rice, staple food of the Philippines," n.d., <https://everything-filipino.com/filipino-food-rice-staple-food-of-the-philippines/>
- 46 Christina Hamlett, "Food Culture in the Philippines," USA Today, n.d., <http://traveltips.usatoday.com/food-culture-philippines-17408.html>
- 47 Maida Pineda and Candice Lopez-Quimpo, "50 Dishes That Define the Philippines," CNN, 24 May 2016, <http://www.cnn.com/travel/article/50-delicious-philippines-dishes/index.html>
- 48 AsiaRecipe, "Philippines: Spanish Influence on Filipino Food," n.d., <http://asian-recipe.com/philippines/spanish-influence-on-filipino-food.html>
- 49 Cheryl Tiu, "The Lechon Degustation: A Tribute to the Philippine Suckling Pig," Forbes, 28 February 2015, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/cheryltiu/2015/02/28/the-lechon-degustation-a-tribute-to-the-philippine-suckling-pig/#505affcf20b6>
- 50 Amanda Thomas, "Regional Cuisine of Mindanao," Balay.ph, 10 April 2017, <https://balay.ph/best-mindanao-cuisine/>

## Cultural Orientation | Chavacano

---

- 51 AllWorldSearch, "Chavacano Cuisine: Discovering the Flavors of Zamboanga," 1 December 2017, <http://allworldsearch.com/chavacano-cuisine-discovering-the-flavors-of-zamboanga.html>
- 52 Justin Calderon, "Balut—How to Eat that Fertilized Duck Egg of the Philippines," CNN, 6 February 2014, <http://www.cnn.com/travel/article/how-to-eat-balut/index.html>
- 53 MariMari, "Filipino Food," n.d., <http://www.marimari.com/content/philippines/food/main.html>
- 54 ABS-CBN News, "What's New on the Menu: McDonald's, KFC," 28 February 2015, <https://news.abs-cbn.com/lifestyle/02/28/15/whats-new-menu-mcdonalds-kfc>
- 55 Jessica Fenol and Joel Guinto, "Jollibee chases McDonald's world crown with acquisition binge," ABS-CBN News, 8 January 2019, <https://news.abs-cbn.com/business/01/08/19/jollibee-chases-mcdonalds-kfc-world-crown-with-acquisition-binge>
- 56 Katrina Escalona, "10 Filipino Food Chains locals love," Culture Trip, 9 January 2018, <https://theculturetrip.com/asia/philippines/articles/10-filipino-food-chains-locals-love/>
- 57 Christina Hamlett, "Food Culture in the Philippines," USA Today, n.d., <http://traveltips.usatoday.com/food-culture-philippines-17408.html>
- 58 MariMari, "Restaurants," n.d., <http://www.marimari.com/content/philippines/restaurants/main.html>
- 59 Mark Lininger, ed., "International Dining Etiquette: Philippines," Etiquette Scholar, n.d., [http://www.etiquettescholar.com/dining\\_etiquette/table-etiquette/pacific\\_dinner\\_etiquette/filipino.html](http://www.etiquettescholar.com/dining_etiquette/table-etiquette/pacific_dinner_etiquette/filipino.html)
- 60 Lucy Debenham, "The Philippines and Travel Etiquette," Travel Etiquette, 18 July 2010, <http://www.traveletiquette.co.uk/philippines-and-travel-etiquette.html>
- 61 Living in the Philippines, "Climate and Attire in the Philippines, 2019," <https://www.livinginthephilippines.com/travel-guides/climate>
- 62 Ronica Valdeavilla, "What to Wear When Travelling in the Philippines," Culture Trip, 20 March 2018, <https://theculturetrip.com/asia/philippines/articles/what-to-wear-when-travelling-in-the-philippines/>
- 63 Michelle Joy L. Padayhag, "What to Wear to the Sinulog Fest," Cebu Daily News, 17 January 2016, <http://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/82250/what-to-wear-to-the-sinulog-fest>
- 64 LAKAD Pilipinas, "Zamboanga Del Sur—The Colors of Zamboanga Hermosa Festival," 2018, <https://www.lakadpilipinas.com/2018/10/zamboanga-hermosa-festival.html>
- 65 Ed Biado, "The 'business' in business casual," Manila Standard, 26 August 2014, <http://manilastandard.net/lifestyle/155954/the-business-in-business-casual.html>
- 66 Public Holidays Global, "Philippines Public Holidays 2019," 2019, <https://publicholidays.ph/2019-dates/>
- 67 Zamboanga: Asia's Latin City, "Dia de la Ciudad de Zamboanga," n.d., [http://www.zamboanga.gov.ph/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=409&catid=35](http://www.zamboanga.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=409&catid=35)
- 68 SunStar Philippines, "February 26 is holiday in Zamboanga City," 4 February 2016, <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/56442>
- 69 World Travel Guide, "Philippines Public Holidays," 2019, <http://www.worldtravelguide.net/philippines/public-holidays>
- 70 Time and Date, "The Day of Valor in Philippines," 2019, <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/philippines/araw-ng-kagitingan>
- 71 Nigel Tan, "Fast Facts: Araw ng Kagitingan," Rappler, 09 April 2017, <https://www.rappler.com/newsbreak/iq/54998-fast-facts-araw-kagitingan-bataan>
- 72 Public Holidays Global, "Philippines Public Holidays 2019," 2019, <https://publicholidays.ph/2019-dates/>
- 73 Dan Manglinong, "The origins of Labor Day and what it means to Filipino workers," Interaksyon, 1 May 2018, <http://www.interaksyon.com/breaking-news/2018/05/01/125967/the-origins-of-labor-day-and-what-it-means-to-workers-today/>
- 74 Office Holidays, "Philippines Independence Day 2019," n.d., [https://www.officeholidays.com/countries/philippines/independence\\_day.php](https://www.officeholidays.com/countries/philippines/independence_day.php)
- 75 Public Holidays Global, "Philippines Public Holidays 2019," 2019, <https://publicholidays.ph/2019-dates/>
- 76 Public Holidays Global, "Philippines Public Holidays 2019," 2019, <https://publicholidays.ph/2019-dates/>
- 77 Public Holidays Global, "Ninoy Aquino Day," 2019, <https://publicholidays.ph/ninoy-aquino-day/>
- 78 World Travel Guide, "Philippines Public Holidays," 2019, <http://www.worldtravelguide.net/philippines/public-holidays>

## Cultural Orientation | Chavacano

---

79 Esquire, “#NeverForgetEDSA: A Brief Timeline of the People Power Revolution,” 26 February 2017, <https://www.esquiremag.ph/politics/people-power-revolution-a1590-20170226>

80 Public Holidays Global, “Philippines Public Holidays 2019,” 2019, <https://publicholidays.ph/2019-dates/>

81 Asbonclz, “Philippine National Heroes Day: A Reflection of the Youth!,” Steemit, 2017, <https://steemit.com/tlphilippines/@asbonclz/philippine-national-heroes-day-a-reflection-for-the-youth>

82 Public Holidays Global, “Philippines Public Holidays 2019,” 2019, <https://publicholidays.ph/2019-dates/>

83 A Global World, “Philippines Marks Bonifacio Day,” n.d., <http://aglobalworld.com/holidays-around-the-world/philippines-bonifacio-day/>

84 Public Holidays Global, “Philippines Public Holidays 2019,” 2019, <https://publicholidays.ph/2019-dates/>

85 Teofilo H. Montemayor, “Jose Rizal: A Biographical Sketch,” Jose Rizal University, 2004, <http://www.joserizal.ph/bg01.html>

86 Zamboanga: Asia’s Latin City, “Customs and Traditions,” 09 August 2005, [http://www.zamboanga.gov.ph/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=206&Itemid=28](http://www.zamboanga.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=206&Itemid=28)

87 World Heritage Encyclopedia, “Zamboangueño People,” Project Gutenberg, n.d., <http://self.gutenberg.org/articles/eng/Zamboangue%C3%B1o>

88 ABS-CBN News, “Zamboanga celebrates ‘Hermosa Festival,’” 12 October 2008, <https://news.abs-cbn.com/nation/regions/10/12/08/zamboanga-celebrates-hermosa-festival>



# Cultural Orientation

## Chapter 3 | Assessment

1. Spanish rule permanently disrupted shared land usage among Chavacano-speaking people.
2. American culture is the main influence on Filipino cuisine.
3. Chavacano-speaking people have an indirect style of verbal communication.
4. A guest in a Filipino's home should never refer to the host's wife as the "hostess."
5. The public holiday known as EDSA Revolution Day celebrates independence from Spanish rule.

Assessment Answers: 1. True; 2. False; 3. True; 4. True; 5. False



*Traffic on the streets of Zamboanga City*  
Wikimedia / Wowzamboangacity

## Chapter 4 | Chavacano Cultural Orientation

# Urban Life

## Introduction

Mindanao has a number of urban regions within its boundaries. The Chavacano-speaking population is heavily concentrated on the Zamboanga Peninsula, which is further divided into three provinces: Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, and Zamboanga Sibugay. There are five cities on the peninsula. Zamboanga City, which is located in Zamboanga del Sur Province, is the most highly urbanized city on the peninsula. About 24% of the approximately 3.4 million people who live on the peninsula reside in Zamboanga City area, which is also one of the 10 largest cities in the Philippines.<sup>1, 2, 3</sup>

Migration is the major source of population growth in Zamboanga. Filipinos who escape the violence in the southern region are drawn to the city by the lure of a better life. Undocumented Filipino workers, or *halaws*,

who are deported from Malaysia also settle in Zamboanga. The rapid expansion of the urban population has had positive and negative effects on the region.<sup>4</sup>

## Urbanization Issues

As a result of sustained migration to cities, shantytowns (squatter communities) have grown alongside wealthy and middle-income neighborhoods in the Philippines. Zamboanga City is typical of many large cities in the Philippines in that its population has grown rapidly while construction to accommodate the increasing population has lagged. Residents in the slum or squatter areas still live in flimsy structures that lack access to clean drinking water, sewage connections, and other city services. The rate of urbanization in Zamboanga City has caused major concerns for the region.<sup>5, 6</sup>



*“Squatter” housing along Davao’s riverfront  
Flickr / Keith Bacongco*

Air quality and pollution have become growing concerns as well. Services such as safe running water, waste management, and electricity are lacking for many, particularly in the city’s most disadvantaged areas. Less than half of Zamboanga City’s population is served by city water, most of which is pumped from the Tumaga River. The scarce resources and lack of social services, along with increased poverty, affect about 27% of *barangays*, the smallest settlements/administrative units in the country.<sup>7, 8</sup>

## Work in Urban Areas



*Construction workers on site in Butuan City  
Flickr / Lutz Klimpel*

The economy of the Zamboanga Peninsula depends on manufacturing and agriculture. The agricultural sector, in particular, has grown steadily over the years. In 2002, Western Mindanao reported more than 252,000 farms within its region. Around 26% of the total Philippines mango crop are produced on some of these farms, totaling an estimated 7,189 metric tons in 2017.<sup>9, 10</sup> Industries such as mining, manufacturing, and construction have grown significantly in recent years. The peninsula is home to more than 2.6 million workers, with unemployment at 3.9% and underemployment at 18.8% as recorded in October 2018. Regional unemployment has shown

a steady decrease, in spite of the high underemployment number. Unemployment in the peninsula is lower than in the country as a whole, which reports unemployment at 5.2% as of March 2019.<sup>11, 12, 13</sup>

Even though Zamboanga City is one of the nation's wealthiest cities, poverty is common among the Chavacano speakers and in most urban areas.<sup>14</sup> People who lack job skills, capital, or connections often end up working in the informal sector, where working conditions are unregulated. Many residents struggle to earn a living by salvaging goods from garbage dumps and peddling repaired items.<sup>15</sup> Policies that promote the export of labor have been in place since former President Marcos established them in the early 1970s. Through the years, this has led to heavy reliance on remittances to maintain or revive the economy.<sup>16</sup>

The disabled population faces even more challenges with employment. Anti-discrimination laws are in place, but many populations do not have discrimination protection. The government does not effectively enforce laws to protect the disabled against discrimination. Women also face discrimination on the job and during the hiring process, including negative professional consequences for becoming pregnant. Although women are subjected to discriminatory hiring practices, they are still hired at all levels of the workforce.<sup>17</sup>

## Healthcare and Health Issues



*The United Doctors Hospital in Cotabato City*  
Wikimedia / MarkoDalisay

Healthcare in the Philippines is sufficient and has undergone many changes in recent years, due in part to reforms and policies aimed at improving access for residents. According to the Department of Health, the Philippines has 721 public hospitals and 1,071 private hospitals. While healthcare is characterized as efficient and affordable, it is not on par with the healthcare of other countries. Healthcare standards vary dramatically from region to region; urban areas have a significantly higher standard than rural areas.<sup>18, 19</sup> The quality of services in hospitals may be substandard because many lack modern equipment and adequate sanitation.<sup>20</sup>

Is there a hospital nearby?		
Visitor:	Tiene ba hospital serca aqui?	Is there a hospital nearby?
Local:	Si, tiene na centro de pueblo	Yes, in the center of town.

*Exchange 14*

Nationwide, a shortage of health professionals exists because of continued emigration to other countries. Many Filipino physicians and nurses have emigrated to the United States, where they often find more lucrative jobs. The impact has been more severe in rural areas, where the shortage of healthcare professionals is extreme. Even in cities that benefit from modern health facilities, some hospitals are understaffed.<sup>21</sup>



Is Dr. Rodriguez in, sir?		
Visitor:	Si Doctor Rodriguez ba ta qui, Senor?	Is Dr. Rodriguez in, sir?
Local:	Nowa	No.

*Exchange 15*

In recent years, health indicators in the Zamboanga Peninsula have improved. In 2008, the top causes of death included pneumonia, heart disease, and cancer. Acute respiratory infections, influenza, diarrhea, high blood pressure, skin disease, and tuberculosis were the main illnesses requiring medical treatment.<sup>22</sup>

I have pain, Doctor. Can you help me?		
Patient:	Tiene yu dolor, Doctor. Puede ba tu ayuda comigo?	I have pain, Doctor. Can you help me?
Doctor:	Si, Yu puede ayuda contigo	Yes, I can help you.

*Exchange 16*

Some hospitals require a down payment upon admission and full payment for services upon discharge. Some private and public hospitals will not provide treatment if sufficient payment is not made. Mosquito-borne illnesses such as the Zika virus and malaria are present in the Philippines.<sup>23</sup> Rabies is a nationwide public health issue; the disease is spread through the bites of animals such as cats, dogs, bats, and raccoons.<sup>24</sup> U.S. citizens should ensure that their vaccinations are up to date and have travel insurance to avoid paying for costly treatment or medical evacuation to the United States.<sup>25</sup>



*Typical patient room at West Metro Hospital*  
Wikimedia / Sheenamae

Contaminated water is a serious public health threat throughout the Philippines. Contaminated water and poor hygiene have led to an increase in waterborne illnesses. The excessive amount of accumulated water during the monsoon season leads to mosquitos, which spread dengue fever and malaria. Contaminated water can lead to outbreaks of hepatitis A, typhoid, and cholera. Leptospirosis is a potentially dangerous infectious disease that can be spread through floodwaters. Proper sanitation and good hygiene can prevent the spread of illnesses.<sup>26, 27, 28</sup>

## Education and Schools in Cities



*Basilan National High School students, Isabela City  
Flickr / Freedom House*

The national literacy rate (reading and writing) for people over 15 was 96.3% in 2015 and was essentially the same for males and females.<sup>29</sup> The functional literacy rate, which gauges a person's basic reading, writing, and computational skills, for ages 10 to 64, was observed at 87.5% in 2013. The failure of many children to develop basic learning skills by the end of their primary education increases the dropout rate, which was 76.6% for elementary school and 55% for secondary in 2014-2015.<sup>30, 31</sup>

Education in the Philippines is regulated by the Department of Education, which mandates six years of schooling beginning at the age of six. This basic elementary education is divided into two components: primary (grades 1–4) and intermediate (grades 5 and 6). Public elementary school is free. Students receive a certificate of graduation upon completing their studies.<sup>32</sup> Secondary education (junior high school) consists of 4 years of education.<sup>33, 34</sup> High school consists of 2 years of education, after which students may choose to attend a vocational school or college.<sup>35</sup>

Schools may be either public or private. Most private schools are located in urban areas such as Zamboanga City, where about 25% of primary and secondary schools are private.<sup>36, 37</sup> There are several universities and institutes of higher education in the region, including the University of Zamboanga in Zamboanga City.<sup>38</sup>

## Restaurants

Because Zamboanga City is a financial, transportation, and education hub for Mindanao, people of many backgrounds either live in or pass through the city. Restaurants offer a wide array of local and international fare to appeal to tourists and business guests from around the world. The service and environment are often casual, but many upscale restaurants can be found in Zamboanga City and other urban areas.<sup>39</sup>

I would like coffee or tea.		
Customer:	Yu querre un café o cha	I would like coffee or tea.
Waiter:	Bueno	Sure.

*Exchange 17*

National drinks include locally brewed beer such as San Miguel and Philippine rums like the popular brand Tanduay. Nonalcoholic drinks such as soda, coffee, tea, and coconut-based beverages are offered in most restaurants.<sup>40, 41</sup>



**The Barbecue Boss restaurant in Davao City**  
Flickr / Constantine Agustin

At home or in restaurants, Filipinos usually eat communally; it is common to gather in a large group and socialize while eating. In informal restaurants, diners are often asked to share a table. Whether an occasion is formal or informal, it often takes on an air of celebration when food is involved. If visitors to the country receive an invitation to dine out with friends or business associates, they should not refuse it. The host ordinarily pays.<sup>42, 43</sup> Tipping is starting to be seen as more and more expected from tourists. A bill that includes the letters SC means that service charge has been added. However, if a service charge was not added, it is customary to give a 10% tip to the wait staff. Tipping is also expected in high-end hotels.<sup>44, 45</sup>

Please bring the bill to me.		
Customer:	Por favor lleva el recibo conmigo para paga	Please bring the bill to me.
Waiter:	Okey	Okay.

*Exchange 18*

## Marketplaces and Street Vendors



**A typical Davao City marketplace**  
Flickr / Burgermac

Open-air bazaars and flea markets (*tiangges*) in the cities sell a myriad of handicrafts, cloth, wood carvings, brassware, jewelry, and other goods. When buying such items from vendors, bargaining is customary, especially in the flea markets or in the Zamboanga barter centers. Advertised prices are usually more than the seller expects to receive for the product. Vendors expect customers to bargain for an agreed-upon price.<sup>46, 47</sup> Customers should examine an item closely to be sure that the quality matches the price they are willing to pay. When bargaining, be friendly and sociable. In the Philippines, bargaining can create or build a relationship with the seller. It is advisable to gain some understanding of the local economy in order to bargain more effectively.<sup>48</sup>

Can I buy a wooden mat with this much money?		
Buyer:	Puede ba yu compra arbolado matte con este clase sen?	Can I buy a wooden mat with this much money?
Seller:	Si	Yes.

Exchange 19

Food is available at street stalls and from food carts in Zamboanga City and other cities. Customers can buy snacks, tea, coffee, iced drinks, and complete meals from these outdoor eateries. Prices are generally fixed.<sup>49</sup>

May I examine this close up?		
Buyer:	Puede ba yu man examin este serca?	May I examine this close up?
Seller:	Puede	Sure.

Exchange 20

## Money, Credit Cards, ATMs



Front and back of 100 Philippine peso (PHP) currency  
Flickr / Vintage Printery

The official unit of currency is the Philippine peso (PHP).<sup>50</sup> As of April 2019, USD 1 was equivalent to approximately PHP 52.<sup>51</sup> The Central Bank issues the national currency and conducts banking operations, along with other private and government-owned banks.<sup>52, 53</sup> It is prohibited to enter or leave the country with more than PHP 50,000 (USD 10,000).<sup>54</sup>

Do you accept U.S. currency?		
Buyer:	Tu ba puede recibe U.S. Dollar?	Do you accept U.S. currency?
Seller:	No, ta recibe lang cami pesos	No, we only accept pesos.

Exchange 21

ATM machines are readily available in most urban areas but may be rare in rural settings. Credit cards are widely accepted in larger towns and cities, but in small towns and on infrequently visited islands, it is difficult to use credit cards. Credit card fraud is widespread, so vigilance when using a credit card



is strongly advised. It is easy to find money exchangers in most city centers or in shopping malls and major department stores. Although money exchangers generally offer the best rates, it is safer to exchange money in banks or hotels.<sup>55</sup>

Can you give me change for this?		
Buyer:	Puede ba tu dale cambio con este?	Can you give me change for this?
Seller:	Si	Yes.

Exchange 22

Financial services contribute a substantial amount to the service sector and the country's overall economic growth.<sup>56</sup> The banking sector is comprised of 42 commercial banks, 60 thrift banks, and 500 rural and cooperative banks. Commercial banks make up 90% of the banking system's resources.<sup>57</sup> In 2014, the government opened the banking market to full international participation, after decades of limiting the activities of non-Philippine banks.<sup>58</sup>



Zamboanga City branch of Banko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Flickr / MGM

## Urban Traffic and Transportation



A jeepney makes its way down a Davao City road

Flickr / shankar s.

Public transportation modes throughout the Philippines, especially buses and *jeepneys*,<sup>59</sup> are not safe because of pickpockets and theft. Armed robberies have happened, and passengers have occasionally been killed.<sup>60</sup> Jeepneys and tricycles are the traditional forms of public transportation in Zamboanga City. Jeepneys were first adapted from World War II U.S. military jeeps. Typically, the vehicles are decorated with colorful artwork, often including advertisements or political messages. A crowded jeepney can seat up to 30 passengers.<sup>61</sup>

Taxi service is sparse in Zamboanga City, although recent funding authorizations have allowed for more taxi operation within the city.<sup>62</sup> It is advisable to use a taxi from a reputable company and not share a ride with a stranger. Never use a taxi that is not equipped with a functioning meter. Taxis can be stolen and used to pick up and rob unsuspecting passengers. Taxis arranged through hotels are more reliable than those hailed on the street.<sup>63</sup>

### Will the bus be here soon?

Visitor:	El bus ba llega ya aqui aura unratito?	Will the bus be here soon?
Local:	Si	Yes.

Exchange 23



**Davao City's ACF bus line**  
Flickr / Dan Benedict Banaag

Bus service is available mainly for long-distance destinations, such as travel between cities. Local governments are developing projects to expand local bus service. Urban streets are congested, and drivers are unpredictable. Ridesharing phone apps are another recommended method of travel. Travel by ferry can be dangerous due to the frequency of accidents and maritime safety shortcomings.<sup>64, 65</sup>

Roads in the Philippines are used by vehicles and by pedestrians, food carts, and other non-vehicular traffic. There are few driving lanes or street signs, and drivers regularly violate the law. There is a continual, crowded mix of vehicles, speeds, and unpredictable activity on the roadways. Also, travel can be dangerous on the Zamboanga Peninsula because of possible terrorist attacks or counterterrorism operations by the military or the police. Armed clashes can occur with no warning.<sup>66, 67</sup>

## Street Crime and Solicitations

Martial law has been in place throughout Mindanao since May 2017 to combat escalating organized violence. It is scheduled to end 31 December 2019.<sup>68</sup> Terrorism is a significant threat in the region, with commercial and public places identified as potential targets and therefore dangerous to visit. Kidnapping, bombings, and violent crimes are prevalent on Mindanao, including the Zamboanga Peninsula. Numerous incidences of violence have been reported in Zamboanga City, such as the grenade attack on a mosque on 30 January 2019. In most urban areas of the Philippines, petty crime such as pickpocketing and credit-card fraud are also common. Although the government has made fighting crime on Mindanao a priority, martial law is controversial.<sup>69, 70, 71</sup>



**The aftermath of the Jolo Cathedral bombing in January 2019**  
Wikimedia / ALBERT ALCAIN/PRESIDENTIAL PHOTO

Poverty is widespread in Zamboanga City and other urban areas, where many people live on the streets and earn money from begging. Panhandlers often gather around restaurants and clubs frequented by foreigners, forming groups to follow tourists and solicit money. Because they can be aggressive, it is best to avoid them. Panhandling was banned by local ordinance in Zamboanga City in 2009, yet it still persists. Panhandlers are routinely apprehended and sent to government shelters.<sup>72, 73</sup>



**Beggar on the streets of Davao City**  
Flickr / Phil Warren

Drug trafficking and drug abuse are serious problems in the Philippines. The manufacture of methamphetamine is prevalent throughout the country. The geography of the country and the inefficiency of law enforcement provide favorable conditions for drug manufacturers and traffickers who export their product throughout Southeast Asia.<sup>74, 75</sup>



**President Duterte at a press conference, July 2016**  
Wikimedia / King Rodriguez

In 2016, President Rodrigo Duterte initiated a war on drugs. He acquired a reputation for being hard on drug dealers and users when he was mayor of Davao City in Mindanao.<sup>76</sup> Duterte's war on drugs has received strong criticism from human rights groups and the Catholic Church because of accusations of widespread extrajudicial killings and incentivizing the use of lethal force.<sup>77</sup>

The country's civilian national police force (PNP) is viewed by Filipinos as corrupt and undisciplined, and efforts at reform have been slow and ineffectual.<sup>78</sup> Since 2016, the PNP has come under criticism for its role in the thousands of extrajudicial killings caused by the war on drugs.<sup>79</sup>

Some families of those killed in Duterte's war on drugs argue that their slain family members were innocent. At least 12,000 people have died since the war began 30 June 2016.<sup>80</sup> In August 2017, 58 suspected drug users and dealers were killed in a three-day period, including 26 in a single night of raids in a Manila suburb.<sup>81</sup> <sup>82</sup> More than 40,000 suspected individuals have been arrested for drug-related offenses; sentences for drug trafficking can be severe, as long as 40 years or in some instances, life imprisonment.<sup>83</sup>



## Endnotes for Chapter 4: Urban Life

- 1 Thomas Brinkoff, City Population, "Philippines: Major and Midsize Cities," 8 July 2016, <http://www.citypopulation.de/Philippines-Cities.html>
- 2 Department of the Interior and Local Government, Regional Office IX, Zamboanga Peninsula, Republic of the Philippines, "Zamboanga Peninsula Profile," 2012, <http://region9.dilg.gov.ph/index.php/profile>
- 3 National Statistics Office, Republic of the Philippines, "2010 Census and Housing Population: Population and Annual Growth Rates for the Philippines and Its Regions, Provinces, and Highly Urbanized Cities Based on 1990, 2000, and 2010 Censuses (report)," 2010, [www.psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/SULU\\_FINAL%20PDF.pdf](http://www.psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/SULU_FINAL%20PDF.pdf)
- 4 Luisa D. Barrios-Fabian, "Case Study of Zamboanga City (Forced Migration Area)," Discussion Paper Series No. 2004-50, Philippine Institute for Development Studies, December 2004, 5, 7–10, 13, <https://issuu.com/ryacat/docs/pidsdps0450>
- 5 Chester L. Hunt, "Chapter 2: The Society and Its Environment: Urban Social Patterns," in *Philippines: A Country Study*, 4th ed., ed. Ronald E. Dolan (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1993), <http://countrystudies.us/philippines/43.htm>
- 6 Luisa D. Barrios-Fabian, "Case Study of Zamboanga City (Forced Migration Area)," Discussion Paper Series No. 2004-50, Philippine Institute for Development Studies, December 2004, 5, 7–10, 13, <https://www.eldis.org/document/A75794>
- 7 Luisa D. Barrios-Fabian, "Case Study of Zamboanga City (Forced Migration Area)," Discussion Paper Series No. 2004-50, Philippine Institute for Development Studies, December 2004, 5, 7–10, 13, <https://www.eldis.org/document/A75794>
- 8 Encyclopædia Britannica, "Barangay," 26 February 2015, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/barangay>
- 9 Philippine Statistic Authority, "A Review of the Agriculture Sector in Western Mindanao Region," 5 November 2004, <https://psa.gov.ph/content/review-agriculture-sector-western-mindanao-region>
- 10 SunStar Zamboanga, "Zamboanga Peninsula Boasts Increase in Mango Production," 28 March 2019, <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1798978>
- 11 Philippine Statistics Authority, "Region IX – Zamboanga Peninsula: QuickStat March 2019 Edition," 1 March 2019, <http://rso09.psa.gov.ph/article/quickstat-march-2019-edition>
- 12 Republic of the Philippines-National Economic and Development Authority, "Zamboanga Peninsula Regional Development Plan 2017-2022," 8 March 2017, <http://www.neda.gov.ph/regional-development-plans/>
- 13 Trading Economics, "Philippines Unemployment Rate," March 2019, <https://tradingeconomics.com/philippines/unemployment-rate>
- 14 Luisa D. Barrios-Fabian, "Case Study of Zamboanga City (Forced Migration Area)," Discussion Paper Series No. 2004-50, Philippine Institute for Development Studies, December 2004, 5, 7–10, 13, <https://issuu.com/ryacat/docs/pidsdps0450>
- 15 Chester L. Hunt, "Chapter 2: The Society and Its Environment: Urban Social Patterns," in *Philippines: A Country Study*, 4th ed., ed. Ronald E. Dolan (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1993), <http://countrystudies.us/philippines/43.htm>
- 16 Blaine Harden, "In Rural Philippines, a Dearth of Doctors," *Washington Post*, 20 September 2008, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/19/AR2008091903678.html>
- 17 Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, "Philippines 2018 Human Rights Report," US State Department, n.d., <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/289319.pdf>
- 18 Manila Times, "At a glance: The Philippine Health Care System," 26 April 2018, <https://www.manilatimes.net/at-a-glance-the-philippine-health-care-system/395117/>
- 19 Expat Arrivals, "Healthcare in Philippines," 2019, <http://www.expatarivals.com/asia-pacific/philippines/healthcare-philippines>
- 20 Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State, "Philippines: Country Specific Information: Health," 9 April 2019, <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Philippines.html>
- 21 Blaine Harden, "In Rural Philippines, a Dearth of Doctors," *Washington Post*, 20 September 2008, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/19/AR2008091903678.html>
- 22 Regional Development Council IX, National Economic and Development Authority IX, Republic of the Philippines, "Zamboanga Peninsula Medium-Term Regional Development Plan 2011–2016 (report)," 2010, 87, [https://issuu.com/cap-dis/docs/region\\_9](https://issuu.com/cap-dis/docs/region_9)



## Cultural Orientation | Cebuano

---

- 23 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Health Information for Travelers to Philippines," 3 August 2017, <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/philippines>
- 24 Eduardo Gonzales, "All You Need to Know about Rabies," Manila Bulletin, 28 March 2017, <https://lifestyle.mb.com.ph/2017/03/28/all-you-need-to-know-about-rabies/>
- 25 Overseas Security Advisory Council, "Philippines 2017 Crime & Safety Report," 14 February 2017, <https://www.osac.gov/Pages/ContentReportDetails.aspx?cid=21253>
- 26 Sarah Negasca, "Beware of Waterborne Diseases," Freeman, 22 February 2016, <http://www.philstar.com/cebu-lifestyle/2016/02/22/1555554/beware-waterborne-diseases>
- 27 The Freeman, "Leptospirosis and Other Waterborne Diseases," 22 September 2014, <http://www.philstar.com/cebu-lifestyle/2014/09/22/1371861/leptospirosis-and-other-waterborne-diseases>
- 28 Kristine Quintas, "Zero Deaths From Waterborne Diseases a Priority of Hospitals," Freeman, 6 June 2016, <http://www.philstar.com:8080/cebu-news/2016/06/06/1590547/zero-deaths-water-borne-diseases-priority-hospitals>
- 29 Central Intelligence Agency, "Philippines," in The World Factbook, n.d., <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/rp.html>
- 30 Republic of the Philippines, "2018 Quickstat of Region IX (Zamboanga Peninsula)," n.d., <https://psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/attachments/ird/quickstat/Quickstat%20Region%20IX%20June%202018.xls>
- 31 Republic of the Philippines, "Zamboanga Peninsula Medium-Term Regional Development Plan 2017-2022," Regional Development Council IX, National Economic and Development Authority IX, 8 March 2017, <http://nro9.neda.gov.ph/plans/>
- 32 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, "World Data on Education, VII Ed. 2010/11," May 2011, [http://www.ibe.unesco.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Publications/WDE/2010/pdf-versions/Philippines.pdf](http://www.ibe.unesco.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Publications/WDE/2010/pdf-versions/Philippines.pdf)
- 33 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, "World Data on Education, VII Ed. 2010/11," May 2011, [http://www.ibe.unesco.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Publications/WDE/2010/pdf-versions/Philippines.pdf](http://www.ibe.unesco.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Publications/WDE/2010/pdf-versions/Philippines.pdf)
- 34 Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, U.S. Department of State, "Background Note: Philippines," 17 January 2012, <https://2009-2017.state.gov/outofdate/bgn/philippines/195236.htm>
- 35 Government of the Philippines, "The K to 12 Basic Education Program," in Official Gazette, n.d., <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/k-12/>
- 36 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, "World Data on Education, VII Ed. 2010/11," May 2011, [http://www.ibe.unesco.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Publications/WDE/2010/pdf-versions/Philippines.pdf](http://www.ibe.unesco.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Publications/WDE/2010/pdf-versions/Philippines.pdf)
- 37 City Government of Zamboanga, Philippines, "General Information: Number of Government and Private Schools," 2012, [http://www.zamboanga.gov.ph/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=777&catid=177&Itemid=515](http://www.zamboanga.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=777&catid=177&Itemid=515)
- 38 Business List, "Universities in Zamboanga City, Philippines," n.d., <http://www.businesslist.ph/category/universities/city:zamboanga-city>
- 39 City Government of Zamboanga, Philippines, "Restaurants," 2012, [http://www.zamboanga.gov.ph/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=402&Itemid=36](http://www.zamboanga.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=402&Itemid=36)
- 40 Amanda Thomas, "Popular Drinks You Will Surely Like," Balay, 11 January 2017, <https://balay.ph/popular-filipino-drinks/>
- 41 Philippine Primer, "Tanduay: Ranked World's No. 1 Rum," 16 June 2018, <http://primer.com.ph/blog/2018/06/16/tanduay-ranked-worlds-no-1-rum/>
- 42 MariMari, "Restaurants," n.d., <http://www.marimari.com/content/philippines/restaurants/main.html>
- 43 Mark Lininger, ed., "International Dining Etiquette: Philippines," Etiquette Scholar, 2011, [http://www.etiquettescholar.com/dining\\_etiquette/table-etiquette/pacific\\_dinner\\_etiquette/filipino.html](http://www.etiquettescholar.com/dining_etiquette/table-etiquette/pacific_dinner_etiquette/filipino.html)
- 44 Philippine Primer, "Expat's Guide: Tipping Etiquette in the Philippines," 13 January 2016, <http://primer.com.ph/tips-guides/2016/01/13/expat-guide-tipping-etiquette-in-the-philippines/>
- 45 Who to Tip, "Tipping in Philippines," n.d., <http://www.whototip.net/tipping-in-philippines>
- 46 World Travel Guide, "Shopping in Philippines," n.d., <https://www.worldtravelguide.net/guides/asia/philippines/shopping-nightlife/>

## Cultural Orientation | Cebuano

---

- 47 PhilAtlas, "Zamboanga: City Profile," n.d., <https://www.philAtlas.com/mindanao/r09/zamboanga-city.html>
- 48 Muller, "Hitchhiking Vietnam: Letters from the Trail: Travel Tips," PBS, n.d., <http://www.pbs.org/hitchhikingvietnam/travel/bargain.html>
- 49 PhilAtlas, "Zamboanga: City Profile," n.d., <https://www.philAtlas.com/mindanao/r09/zamboanga-city.html>
- 50 Lonely Planet, "Philippines: Practical Information: Money and Costs," 2012, <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/philippines/practical-information/money-costs#1>
- 51 XE, "XE Currency Converter: USD to PHP," 25 April 2019, <http://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/convert/?Amount=1&From=USD&To=PHP>
- 52 Gregorio C. Borlaza and Carolina G. Hernandez, "Philippines," Encyclopædia Britannica, 26 April 2019, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/456399/Philippines>
- 53 XE Currency Converter, "USD to PHP," 21 September 2017, <http://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/convert/?Amount=1&From=USD&To=PHP>
- 54 US State Department, "Philippines Travel Advisory," 09 April 2019, <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/philippines.html>
- 55 Lonely Planet, "Philippines: Practical Information: Money and Costs," 2012, <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/philippines/practical-information/money-costs#1>
- 56 Economy Watch, "Philippines Economic Structure," 29 March 2010, <http://www.economywatch.com/world-economy/philippines/structure-of-economy.html>
- 57 Export.gov, "Philippines—Banking Systems," 28 June 2017, <https://www.export.gov/article?id=Philippines-Banking-Systems>
- 58 Oxford Business Group, "Philippines Banking Sector Opens Up to Foreign Banks since 2014," 13 July 2017, <https://www.oxfordbusinessgroup.com/analysis/opening-market-number-foreign-banks-have-entered-sector-2014>
- 59 Katrina Escalona, "How the Jeepney Became a Filipino National Symbol," Culture Trip, 11 September 2017, <https://theculturetrip.com/asia/philippines/articles/how-the-jeepney-became-a-filipino-national-symbol/>
- 60 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Government, "Travel Advice Philippines: Summary," 5 October 2012, <http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/Advice/Philippines>
- 61 StuartXchange, "Jeepney," n.d., <http://www.stuartxchange.org/Jeepney.html>
- 62 Teofilo Garcia, Jr., "Modern Taxicabs Start Operation in Zamboanga City," Republic of the Philippines—Philippine News Agency, 26 June 2018, <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1039500>
- 63 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Government, "Travel Advice Philippines: Summary," 5 October 2012, <http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/Advice/Philippines>
- 64 Overseas Security Advisory Council, "Philippines 2017 Crime & Safety Report," 14 February 2017, <https://www.osac.gov/Pages/ContentReportDetails.aspx?cid=21253>
- 65 US State Department, "Philippines Travel Advisory," 09 April 2019, <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Philippines.html>
- 66 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Government, "Travel Advice Philippines: Safety and Security," 5 October 2012, <http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/Advice/Philippines>
- 67 Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State, "Philippines: Country Specific Information: Travel and Transportation," 9 April 2019, <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Philippines.html>
- 68 Martin Petty, "Philippine Congress Extends Mindanao Martial Law Until End-2019," Reuters, 11 December 2018, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-philippines-security/philippine-congress-extends-mindanao-martial-law-until-end-2019-idUSKBN1OB0IR>
- 69 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Government, "Travel Advice: Philippines: Safety and Security: Crime," 23 April 2019, <https://smartraveller.gov.au/Countries/asia/south-east/Pages/philippines.aspx>
- 70 Manila Times, "Mindanao Crime Rate Must Continue to Fall—Go," 28 November 2018, <https://www.manilatimes.net/mindanao-crime-rate-must-continue-to-fall-go/474419/>
- 71 ReliefWeb, "Martial Law Extension Would Put Human Rights at Risk in Mindanao, say regional MPs," 12 December 2018, <https://reliefweb.int/report/philippines/martial-law-extension-would-put-human-rights-risk-mindanao-say-regional-mps>
- 72 Claire Delfin, "Life on the Streets of Ermita Still Beats Life Back Home," GMA News, 29 September 2008, <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/>

## Cultural Orientation | Cebuano

---

[specialreports/123780/life-on-the-streets-of-ermita-still-beats-life-back-home-in-the-barrio/story/](https://news.abs-cbn.com/nation/regions/12/25/15/police-round-up-beggars-in-zamboanga-city)

73 RJ Rosalado, "Police Round Up Beggars in Zamboanga City," ABS-CBN News, 25 December 2015, <https://news.abs-cbn.com/nation/regions/12/25/15/police-round-up-beggars-in-zamboanga-city>

74 Overseas Security Advisory Council, "Philippines 2017 Crime & Safety Report," 14 February 2017, <https://www.osac.gov/Pages/ContentReportDetails.aspx?cid=21253>

75 US State Department, "Philippines Travel Advisory," 9 April 2019, <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Philippines.html>

76 Eleanor Ross, "Philippines President Duterte's Drug War One Year On: At Least 7,000 Are Dead, But It's Been 'Successful,'" Newsweek, 30 June 2017, <http://www.newsweek.com/dutertes-drug-war-7000-success-630392>

77 Scott Neuman, "Church Leaders in Philippines Condemn Bloody War on Drugs," NPR, 20 August 2017, <http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/08/20/544855446/church-leaders-in-philippines-condemn-bloody-war-on-drugs>

78 Global Security, "Philippine National Police (PNP)," 5 December 2016, <https://www.globalsecurity.org/intell/world/philippines/pnp.htm>

79 Human Rights Watch, "Philippines: Duterte's First Year a Human Rights Calamity," 28 June 2017, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/06/28/philippines-dutertes-first-year-human-rights-calamity>

80 Human Rights Watch, "Philippines' 'War on Drugs,'" n.d., <https://www.hrw.org/tag/philippines-war-drugs>

81 Felipe Villamor, "Philippine Drug War Logs Deadliest Week: 58 Killed in 3 Days," New York Times, 17 August 2017, <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/17/world/asia/philippines-duterte-drug-war.html?mcubz=0>

82 BBC News, "Philippine Drug War Sees 'Bloodiest Night' of Deaths," 16 August 2017, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-40944888>

83 Overseas Security Advisory Council, "Philippines 2017 Crime & Safety Report," 14 February 2017, <https://www.osac.gov/Pages/ContentReportDetails.aspx?cid=21253>

# Cultural Orientation

## Chapter 4 | Assessment

1. It is common to share a table with strangers in a restaurant.
2. Security threats from terrorism are not a serious problem in urban areas.
3. Emigration from the Philippines has led to labor shortages in the medical profession.
4. Unemployment in the Zamboanga Peninsula is among the highest in the nation.
5. Buses are the main form of transportation in Zamboanga City.

Assessment Answers: 1. True; 2. True; 3. False; 4. False; 5. False





*A fishing village in Dipolog, Zamboanga del Norte*  
Flickr / Isabel Esterman

## Chapter 5 | Chavacano Cultural Orientation

# Rural Life

## Introduction

Rural Filipinos such as the Chavacano speakers face a unique set of challenges and circumstances. The security situation throughout Mindanao is often unstable; terrorism and martial law are prominent issues in every region. The country's education system is well-established, and nearly all Filipinos are literate, but many rural residents are undereducated. Although education is free by law, for rural residents, barriers such as distance and the cost of supplies stand in the way. Health threats and mental health problems are emerging from obscurity among Filipinos.<sup>1, 2</sup>

Economic challenges threaten the stability of families throughout Mindanao and the Zamboanga Peninsula, home to the majority of Chavacano speakers. Agriculture dominates the lives of people in rural areas.

Between 43% and 52% of the land in the peninsula's three provinces is devoted to agriculture. Western Mindanao has more than 252,000 farms, covering 45% of Mindanao's total land area. Zamboanga del Norte is home to the largest number of farms in Western Mindanao, with more than 104,000 farms covering 295,300 hectares of land. Coconuts and hogs dominate the agriculture and livestock production of the region. Zamboanga Peninsula's agriculture, fishing, and forestry industries contribute roughly half of the country's gross regional domestic product.<sup>3, 4, 5</sup>

## Land Distribution/Ownership



*Rice field near Dipolog City  
Flickr / Ronnie*

A legacy of the Spanish colonial period in the Philippines was the concentration of land in the hands of a few wealthy landowners.<sup>6</sup> Farmers worked the lands as tenant farmers. In the early- and mid-20th century, the land tenancy system was still in effect. Farmers traded their labor and equipment for supplies, seeds, and tenancy rights from landowners. The farmers then planted and cultivated crops, dividing the harvest between farmers and owners. Under this system, tenants had to pay high interest rates and were perpetually indebted to the landowners.<sup>7</sup> The tenancy system continued in modified forms under and after U.S.

occupation. Revolts against the system's bondage eventually led to a series of land reforms that were sometimes helpful, but more often ineffective, and were often undermined by practices that favored wealthy landowners.<sup>8</sup>

In 1988, the Philippines passed a comprehensive agrarian reform law designed to redistribute land to peasants and farm workers.<sup>9</sup> By 2012, 91% of targeted lands in the Zamboanga Peninsula had been redistributed. As of 2019, it is estimated that more than 13,000 farmers have benefitted from the Department of Agrarian Reform's initiatives.<sup>10, 11</sup>

Do you own this land?		
Official:	Tu ba el dueno de este tierra?	Do you own this land?
Local:	Si	Yes.

*Exchange 24*

## Rural Economy/ Sources of Income



**Children play in an impoverished neighborhood**  
Flickr / Feed My Starving Children (FMSC)

Nationwide, almost 22% of the population lives below the poverty line, and 60% of those living in poverty live in rural areas of the country. Poverty overall has seen a slight downward trend in recent years. Poverty was reported at 27% in 2006 and has maintained its current percentage since 2015. Government initiatives are targeting poverty with the hopes of reducing poverty to the 13-15% range by 2022.<sup>12, 13</sup>

About 40% of the employed individuals work in the informal economy, performing labor and services that are described as “off the books” or “under the table.”<sup>14</sup> Rural women often seek employment as

domestic workers in the homes of wealthy families. The average family income in 2015 was around PHP 267,000, or about USD 5,119.<sup>15, 16</sup>

Agriculture and fisheries are by far the most important resources on the Zamboanga Peninsula. Unfortunately, individuals working in agriculture, maritime trades, and domestic service often experience substandard working conditions and forced labor.<sup>17, 18</sup> Mindanao’s major crops are *palay* (pre-husked rice), corn, bananas, cacao, coconuts, and mangos. Coconuts led the pack in 2013 production, with almost 1.8 million metric tons of coconuts produced. Palay was a distant second with just under 640,000 metric tons.<sup>19</sup>



**Coconut trees in Davao City**  
Flickr / Jacques Beaulieu

The region is the largest rubber producer in the Philippines. Other important agricultural activities include the milling of coconut oil, wood processing, and seaweed processing.<sup>20</sup> Livestock accounts for almost 18% of the agricultural sector and poultry more than 16%. Fisheries account for just under 16% of the agricultural sector.<sup>21</sup> The peninsula is known as the sardines capital of the Philippines, with Zamboanga City home to 11 sardine canning factories.<sup>22</sup> Politically motivated conflicts and social turmoil have affected sardine production in recent times.<sup>23</sup>

What crops do you grow?		
Official:	Cosa cultivo tu ta cre-ce?	What crops do you grow?
Local:	Yu ta crece coco y arroz	I grow coconuts and rice.

*Exchange 25*



A major problem throughout the Philippines is the reliance on lending companies and informal lenders because obtaining a loan through a bank is much more difficult than getting a loan through a lending company. Informal loans are called “5-6 loans” because, for every 5 dollars that are lent, 6 dollars is paid back to the creditor. These lenders require payments on a daily or weekly basis. Creditors prey on those who aren’t able to secure a loan through a bank, and many of these lenders operate outside common banking practices. Rural area residents are often vulnerable to these types of loans. Government programs have recently been launched on the Zamboanga Peninsula to assist underprivileged borrowers and combat predatory practices.<sup>24, 25, 26</sup>

## Rural Transportation

The Philippine government has invested in rural infrastructure development over the past few years. Almost 6,000 km (3,728 mi) of rural roads have been constructed or repaired throughout the country, and the government plans to construct or repair another 14,000 km (8,700 mi) of roads. However, road conditions are still poor throughout the country, and traffic is congested. Most roads, including roads that connect rural areas to the cities, are only two lanes and often in disrepair, with potholes, narrow lanes, and few road signs. Over 155,000 km (96,312 mi) of roads are unpaved.<sup>27, 28</sup>



**Bed nets delivered on a muddy rural road**  
*Flickr / kerolic*

Within Zamboanga, the primary modes of transportation are jeepneys, tricycles, and buses, but the safety and reliability of public transportation are poor, and pickpocketing and armed robberies are common. Taxis have recently established themselves as a viable option within Zamboanga City, but taxi drivers may use threats to extort money from passengers, be under the influence of drugs and alcohol, and display fake taxi meters.<sup>29, 30</sup>



**A Zamboanga City tricycle**  
*Flickr / kerolic*

Pedestrians, people leading animals, motorbikes, bicycles, and other personal vehicles fill the roads. Investment in rural roads helps farmers like those on the Zamboanga Peninsula transport agricultural products to the marketplace.<sup>31, 32</sup> Many drivers do not respect traffic laws and can be extremely aggressive or reckless. Drivers also often drive at high speeds. Driving conditions may be hazardous during the rainy season, and fatal accidents are common.<sup>33</sup> More than 10,000 die annually in the Philippines on the road in road crashes. Young adults are the most vulnerable.<sup>34</sup> <sup>35</sup> Minor road incidents can escalate quickly and lead to violent assaults.<sup>36</sup>



Because of the serious threat of terrorist attacks, kidnapping, high levels of criminality, and violent clashes between the military/police and terrorist/rebel groups in Mindanao, the Zamboanga Peninsula, and the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, traveling in the region is very risky. Several Western governments warn their citizens to avoid all travel to the Zamboanga Peninsula and Mindanao.<sup>37, 38, 39</sup>

Where can I rent a car?		
Official:	Donde yu puede pres-ta auto?	Where can I rent a car?
Local:	Alle na esculado	By the square.

Exchange 26

## Rural Healthcare



*A medical procedure underway in Mindanao*  
Flickr / Harry FozzardMindanao

Roughly two-thirds of the Zamboanga Peninsula residents have health insurance coverage, primarily through the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth). Private healthcare facilities are more likely to be utilized by residents of urban areas. Overall, urban residents have better access to healthcare and health insurance coverage than rural residents.<sup>40</sup>

The exodus of doctors and nurses throughout the country has taken a high toll on rural areas. Professional nurses can earn much higher salaries in Europe or the United States and have steadily emigrated to those places in recent years. Because fewer doctors and nurses are available in the countryside, mortality rates are higher in rural areas as the rural poor often find it difficult to travel for specialized care. Rural residents sometimes rely on traditional healers, midwives, and herbal medicines.<sup>41</sup>

Because of emigration, many rural clinics in the Philippines closed, leaving the peninsula with 1 doctor for every 20,000 residents.<sup>42, 43</sup> Zamboanga del Norte has the best access to medical care on the peninsula, with 27 to 33 *barangay* healthcare facilities. The rest of the peninsula has fewer than 20 facilities.<sup>44</sup>

Is there a medical clinic nearby?		
Official:	Este tiene ba un clini-ca de medico serca aqui?	Is there a medical clinic nearby?
Local:	Si, alla gayo	Yes, over there.

Exchange 27



**Patients waiting to be seen at a rural medical facility**  
 Flickr / Harry Fozzard

The average life span of Filipinos is almost three years shorter than the global average of age 72. The average Filipino is expected to live about 69.6 years – the average American is estimated to live a decade longer.<sup>45</sup> Life expectancy in rural areas is particularly affected because rural areas receive a lower level of investment in medical services than urban areas. High rates of poverty, poor quality healthcare, and a lack of access to healthcare have created higher incidences of health risks in the region. The Philippine infant and maternal mortality rates are similar to the median of worldwide mortality rates. Around 6% of Filipino adults are obese, and almost 22% of children are

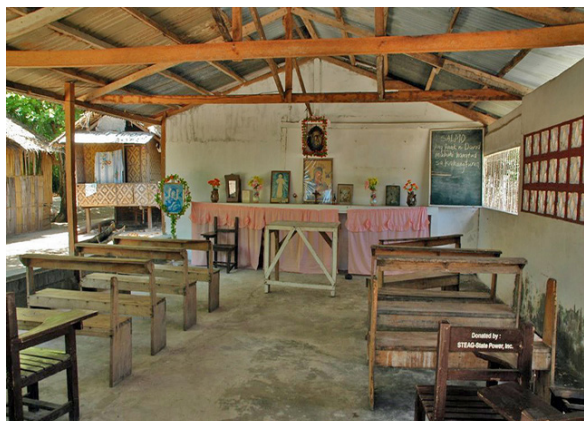
underweight. Zamboanga City has been working on addressing its high malnutrition rate by implementing feeding programs and campaigns to combat the problem. An average of 14% of residents in Zamboanga Peninsula's villages suffer from malnutrition.<sup>46, 47</sup>

HIV is still a problem in the region. The number of individuals infected with HIV is rising rapidly in the Zamboanga region. Since 1995, Zamboanga City has recorded more than 400 cases, with about 93% of those diagnosed being men. A similarly strong majority of the cases are the result of sexual activity; 11 cases were the result of blood donations, and three were from mother-to-child transmission. Zamboanga City offers free treatment at the Zamboanga City Medical Center.<sup>48, 49</sup>

There is an increased focus on treating mental health problems throughout the Philippines, where an estimated six people commit suicide each day.<sup>50</sup> To combat depression and other mental health problems, a 24-hour national hotline recently opened up offering mental health services such as counseling and psychiatric emergency assistance.<sup>51</sup> The Mental Health Act empowers the government to promote well-being and provide services such as the hotline or access to mental facilities.<sup>52</sup>

Dengue fever, a disease spread by mosquitos, is a serious health concern throughout the Zamboanga Peninsula. More than 2,500 cases were recorded in 2019, more than double the number in 2018. A campaign against mosquitoes is underway to help control the spread of the disease.<sup>53, 54</sup> The risk of dengue can be mitigated by draining standing water, using mosquito repellent, and sleeping under a mosquito net.<sup>55</sup> Japanese encephalitis is a mosquito-borne virus that is more common in rural areas. This illness can cause swelling of the brain, coma, and death. Japanese Encephalitis is endemic to the Philippines and Southeast Asia.<sup>56, 57</sup>

## Rural Education



*A rural schoolhouse on Mindanao*  
Flickr / 3dom

Rural schools in the Philippines suffer from many problems. There are not enough schools for the number of children. Children may have to get up early to walk a considerable distance to school. It is difficult to recruit teachers for rural areas, as the standards of education are often below that of urban schools. Rural classrooms often lack books, equipment, and basic supplies.<sup>58</sup>

Is there a school nearby?		
Official:	Este ba tiene escuela serca aqui?	Is there a school nearby?
Local:	Si	Yes.

*Exchange 28*

The academic year in the Philippines begins in June with the start of the rainy season. The school year ends in late March and students are on break through May. The nation has a 2–3-week break during the Christmas season in December and a 4–5-day break in early November to celebrate All Saints Day and Day of the Dead.<sup>59</sup>

Public education is free and compulsory for grades K–12, a relatively recent change as the result of the 2013 Enhanced Basic Education Act.<sup>60, 61</sup> Mandatory ROTC training for high school juniors and seniors was recently enacted as part of the country's National Service Training Program.<sup>62, 63</sup> Schools may be either public or private. Upon the successful completion of senior high school, students may choose to enter a vocational school or college.<sup>64, 65</sup> Even though primary education is compulsory, about 10% of children ages 6–14 are not enrolled.<sup>66</sup> Poverty is the main reason behind this high rate—accounting for nearly 30% of dropouts—because many leave school to help supplement their family incomes.<sup>67</sup>



*Rio Tuba nickel mine's schoolhouse*  
Flickr / Andy Maluche



Do your children go to school?		
Official:	El dituyu manga anak ta anda na escuela?	Do your children go to school?
Local:	Si	Yes.

Exchange 29

## Village Life

People in rural Mindanao often live in older, traditional homes built of bamboo, with roofs of corrugated metal or palm leaves. Many homes are constructed above ground with large poles for the foundation. The most common construction material is either wood or cinder blocks, sometimes covered with plaster and painted. Older homes have outdoor kitchen areas, while newer style homes have kitchens indoors. Indoor plumbing and electrical infrastructure are available in rural homes unless they are in remote areas.<sup>68</sup>



*Tropical bamboo housing in Dapitan*  
Flickr / Leocadio Sebastian

Daily life in the countryside often revolves around the crowded marketplaces where people come to socialize as well as to conduct business. People sell fish and fish products, vegetables, fruits and fruit drinks, and spices in “wet” markets, as opposed to “dry” markets where goods such as household items and clothing are sold. Market customers might include tourists and foreign visitors. Smaller regions hold markets once or twice a week.<sup>69</sup>

## Local Authority



*Zamboanga City's Mariki Barangay Hall*  
Wikimedia / Wowzamboangacity

Named after *balangays*, the Malay sailboats that carried early settlers from Borneo to the Philippines, barangays are the smallest administrative units of local government in the Philippines. *Barangay* is the native Filipino term for a village, and can also refer to a neighborhood, districts, or suburb.<sup>70, 71</sup> *Barangays* are constitutionally recognized as governing community units of fewer than 1,000 people (50 to 100 families) and may exist within a larger administrative unit, such as a municipality or city.<sup>72</sup> Currently, there are a little over 42,000 *barangays* in the country.<sup>73</sup>





**Calarian Barangay Hall in Zamboanga City**  
Wikimedia / Wowzamboangacity

The chief local executive or headman of a *barangay* is the *punong barangay* (captain). The *punong barangay* enforces laws and ordinances; maintains public order; ensures the delivery of basic services; enforces environmental protection laws; and acts against drug abuse, child abuse, and juvenile delinquency. The *punong barangay* is also the presiding officer of the *sanggunian barangay*.<sup>74</sup>

The *sangguniang barangay* is the legislative body of the *barangay*. This body consists of seven elected members called *kagawad* (counselors), the *Sangguniang Kabataan* (chairman), and a separately

appointed secretary and treasurer — altogether 11 *barangay* officials. The *sangguniang barangay* can enact ordinances; levy taxes and other revenue measures; provide for construction and maintenance of *barangay* facilities and other public works; regulate the use of public facilities.<sup>75, 76</sup>

Does your barangay leader live here?		
Official:	El di inyo barangay lider ta queda ba aqui?	Does your barangay leader live here?
Local:	Si	Yes.

Exchange 30

In tribal areas on the Zamboanga Peninsula or throughout Mindanao, the person in charge could be a tribal elder, depending on the organization or hierarchy of a particular group.<sup>77</sup> Military officials and local police, if present, supersede the authority of tribal elders, even though some groups or *barangays* function independently.



**Gathering at San Francisco Barangay, Zamboanga City**  
Flickr / agapbulusan

Respected barangay leader, we need your help.		
Official:	Respetado barangay lider, cami man necesita ayu-da/consejo/opinion	Respected barangay leader, we need your help/advice/opinion.
Local leader:	Okey	Okay.

Exchange 31

## Security Checkpoints



*A policeman at an airport checkpoint in Philippines  
Flickr / Frank1890*

Military checkpoints are sometimes established in areas of the southern Philippines on short notice, particularly in Muslim areas of Mindanao, where violence and unrest occur. The separatist movement has coalesced into several groups, including the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which operates in central Mindanao. In 2018, the Bangsamoro Peace Process was signed, the latest peace effort after years of ineffective peace treaties and initiatives. Although peace is being pursued, the conflicts continue over time.<sup>78, 79</sup> Attacks have taken place on the Zamboanga Peninsula, in both rural and urban areas.<sup>80, 81</sup> In addition, violence involving armed gangs committing crimes of extortion, kidnapping, and armed robbery occurs on Mindanao.<sup>82</sup>

Where is the nearest checkpoint?		
Official:	Donde el mas serca puesto?	Where is the nearest checkpoint?
Local:	Dos kilometros des de aqui	Two kilometers from here.

*Exchange 32*

Police and the military have established temporary and permanent checkpoints in all areas of the Chavacano-speaking region on Mindanao. Checkpoints are set up not only as a result of clashes between insurgent troops and government forces but for other events, such as elections.<sup>83</sup> Foreigners are required to fully comply with the requests of police and military authorities at checkpoints. Checkpoints are well-lit and manned by properly uniformed police.

Show us the car registration.		
Guard:	Manda mira canamun el registro de auto	Show us the car regis-tration.
Driver:	Okey	Okay.

*Exchange 33*

Drivers should slow down, dim headlights, turn on cabin lights, lock all doors, and stay inside the car. Only visual searches are allowed. Drivers do not need to open the glove compartment, trunk, or any bags. Documents, including driver's license and registration, should be kept within reach.<sup>84</sup>

Are you carrying any guns?		
Official:	Tu ba ta carga cosa cosa pusil?	Are you carrying any guns?
Local:	No	No.

Exchange 34

## Landmines

The Philippines signed the Mine Ban Treaty on 3 December 1997 and ratified it in 2000, becoming legally bound to the treaty. The treaty is used for leverage in eliminating mines by the Philippines Campaign to Ban Landmines, which seeks to have the government and armed groups commit to a cessation of mines in the future.<sup>85, 86</sup>

Members of insurgent groups and non-state armed forces have used mines for several years in their struggle against the government. Unexploded ordnance (UXO) and explosive remnants of war (ERW) that have been found on the island of Mindanao date as far back as World War II. Most of the affected areas are on Mindanao.<sup>87</sup>



*An exhibit about the dangers of cluster munitions  
Flickr / Cluster Munition Coalition*

Injuries from explosive devices have increased over the last several years. Most of those injured were civilians, but some were security force personnel. Some of these devices were suspected of being used in ambushes of Philippine National Forces. In 2013, the total number of casualties from explosive devices such as mines was recorded at 571, with 184 deaths.<sup>88</sup>

## Endnotes for Chapter 5: Rural Life

- 1 Bureau of International Labor Affairs, "2014 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor," US Department of Labor n.d., <https://www.dol.gov/ilab/reports/child-labor/findings/2014TDA/philippines.pdf>
- 2 BBC News, "Philippines Duterte: Martial Law Extended in Mindanao," 22 July 2017, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-40690589>
- 3 Republic of the Philippines, "A Review of the Agriculture Sector in Western Mindanao Region," Philippine Statistics Authority, 5 November 2004, <https://psa.gov.ph/content/review-agriculture-sector-western-mindanao-region>
- 4 Iris Gonzales, "SEC's Marching Order: Crack Down on Loan Sharks," Philippine Star, 28 July 2017, <http://www.philstar.com/business/2017/07/28/1722036/secs-marching-order-crack-down-loan-sharks>
- 5 DTI Philippines, "Profile on Region 9—Economy," n.d., <https://www.dti.gov.ph/regions/region9/r9-profile-of-region>
- 6 Alberto Vargas, "The Philippines Country Brief: Property Rights and Land Markets," Land Tenure Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison, March 2003, 3–4, <http://www.nelson.wisc.edu/ltc/docs/philippinesbrief.pdf>
- 7 Donald M. Seekins, "Chapter 1: Historical Setting: The Tenancy Problem," in *Philippines: A Country Study*, 4th ed., ed. Ronald E. Dolan (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1993), <https://www.loc.gov/item/92039812/>
- 8 Charles W. Lindsey, "Chapter 3: The Economy: Rice and the Green Revolution," in *Philippines: A Country Study*, 4th ed., ed. Ronald E. Dolan (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1993), <https://www.loc.gov/item/92039812/>
- 9 Alberto Vargas, "The Philippines Country Brief: Property Rights and Land Markets," Land Tenure Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison, March 2003, 9, <http://www.nelson.wisc.edu/ltc/docs/philippinesbrief.pdf>
- 10 Michael Vincent D. Cajulao, "DAR-9 Hits 91% of Land Distribution Target," *One Mindanao*, Vol. 1 No. 308, 25 July 2012, 28–30. [https://issuu.com/piamindanao1/docs/one\\_mindanao\\_-\\_july\\_25\\_\\_2012](https://issuu.com/piamindanao1/docs/one_mindanao_-_july_25__2012)
- 11 Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz, "13,000 farmers benefit from P22.9-million DAR projects in Zamboanga Peninsula," *Manila Bulletin*, 17 April 2019, <https://news.mb.com.ph/2019/04/17/13000-farmers-benefit-from-p22-9-million-dar-projects-in-zamboanga-peninsula/>
- 12 Oanda, "Currency Converter," 29 April 2019, <http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/>
- 13 World Bank, "Philippines' Poverty Rate Declines; More Well-paying Jobs and Opportunities Needed," 30 May 2018, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2018/05/30/philippines-poverty-rate-declines-more-well-paying-jobs-and-opportunities-needed>
- 14 Central Intelligence Agency, "The Philippines: Economy," *The World Factbook*, 1 May 2019, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/rp.html>
- 15 Republic of the Philippines, "Average Family income in 2015 is Estimated at 22 thousand pesos Monthly," Philippine Statistics Authority, 24 October 2016, <https://psa.gov.ph/content/average-family-income-2015-estimated-22-thousand-pesos-monthly-results-2015-family-income>
- 16 Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, "Philippines 2018 Human Rights Report," 2018, [www.state.gov/documents/organization/289319.pdf](http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/289319.pdf)
- 17 Republic of the Philippines, "The Philippines Fifth Progress Report—Millennium Development Goals," 12 September 2014, 33, <http://www.neda.gov.ph/philippines-fifth-progress-report-millennium-development-goals-executive-summary/>
- 18 Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, "Philippines 2018 Human Rights Report," 2018, [www.state.gov/documents/organization/289319.pdf](http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/289319.pdf)
- 19 Mindanao Development Authority, "Agriculture," 2013, <http://minda.gov.ph/products-and-services/statistical-reference/agriculture>
- 20 Regional Development Council, National Economic and Development Authority IX, "Regional Development Agenda Zamboanga Peninsula (Region IX)," 2017, <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1U38odwY6BDS9J9ByL-oYtBRGSuMlq1r7/view?usp=sharing>
- 21 Bureau of Agricultural Statistics Department, Government of the Philippines, "Performance of Philippine Agriculture," 2018, [https://psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/PAR\\_October%20to%20December%202018.pdf](https://psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/PAR_October%20to%20December%202018.pdf)
- 22 Republic of the Philippines, "Mega Fishing Corporation Success Story: Sardines Innovation for the Benefit of All," DOST-PCAARRD, 2011, <http://www.pcaarrd.dost.gov.ph/home/portal/index.php/quick-information-dispatch/2302-mega-fishing-corporation-success-story-sardines-innovation-for-the-benefit-of-all>



## Cultural Orientation | Chavacano

---

- 23 ABS-CBN News, "Sardine Factories Suffer Losses as Zambo Conflict Continues," 10 September 2013, <https://news.abs-cbn.com/business/09/10/13/sardine-factories-suffer-losses-zambo-conflict-continues>
- 24 Carlos D. Isles, "Can Duterte Stop '5-6'?" Philippine Daily Inquirer, 6 June 2016, <http://opinion.inquirer.net/95084/can-duterte-stop-5-6>
- 25 Iris Gonzales, "SEC's Marching Order: Crack Down on Loan Sharks," Philippine Star, 28 July 2017, <http://www.philstar.com/business/2017/07/28/1722036/secs-marching-order-crack-down-loan-sharks>
- 26 Bong Garcia, "DTI launches P3 program in Zamboanga Peninsula," SunStar Philippines, 6 June 2017, <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/146143>
- 27 Lila Ramos Shahani, "On the Road to Concrete Developments: Farm-to-Market-Roads," Philippine Star, 14 December 2015, <http://www.philstar.com/opinion/2015/12/14/1532360/road-concrete-developments-farm-market-roads>
- 28 Government of Canada, "Philippines," 7 June 2019, <https://travel.gc.ca/destinations/philippines?undefined&wbdisable=true>
- 29 Philippines Insider, "Zamboanga Transportation," 29 July 2016, <https://www.philippinesinsider.com/mindanao/zamboanga/zamboanga-transportation/>
- 30 Bong Garcia, "Taxi co-op now uses grab application," SunStar Zamboanga, 2 July 2018, <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1750756>
- 31 Aspasrah D. Bani, "Philippines: Farm-to-Market Road Provides Better Access for Rural Community," World Food Programme, 3 May 2016, <https://www.wfp.org/stories/philippines-farm-market-road-provides-better-access-rural-community>
- 32 Central Intelligence Agency, "The Philippines: Transportation," The World Factbook, 1 May 2019, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/rp.html>
- 33 Government of Canada, "Philippines," 7 June 2019, <https://travel.gc.ca/destinations/philippines?undefined&wbdisable=true>
- 34 Ina Reformina, "10,000 Die Annually From Road Crashes In PH, Group Says," ABS-CBN News, 16 November 2018, <https://news.abs-cbn.com/focus/11/16/18/10000-die-annually-from-road-crashes-in-ph-group-says>
- 35 World Health Organization, "Philippines," Road Safety Management Group, Department of Transportation and Communication, 2013, [https://www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/road\\_safety\\_status/2015/country\\_profiles/Philippines.pdf](https://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/road_safety_status/2015/country_profiles/Philippines.pdf)
- 36 Government of Canada, "Philippines," 7 June 2019, <https://travel.gc.ca/destinations/philippines?undefined&wbdisable=true>
- 37 GOV.UK, "Foreign Travel Advice—Philippines," 23 April 2019, <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/philippines#localtravel>
- 38 U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs, "Philippines Travel Advisory," 9 April 2019, <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/philippines-travel-advisory.html>
- 39 Government of Canada, "Philippines," 7 June 2019, <https://travel.gc.ca/destinations/philippines?undefined&wbdisable=true>
- 40 Philippine Statistics Authority, ICF International, "Philippines National Demographic and Health Survey 2017," USAID, October 2018, <http://www.psa.gov.ph/content/national-demographic-and-health-survey-ndhs>
- 41 Globalization 101, "The Case of Filipino Nurses," SUNY Levin Institute, 2017, <http://www.globalization101.org/the-case-of-the-philippine-nurses/>
- 42 Barnaby Lo, "Philippines: Have Degree, Will Travel. Where Have All the Nurses Gone?" PBS Frontline, 18 December 2007, [http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/rough/2007/12/philippines\\_hav.html](http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/rough/2007/12/philippines_hav.html)
- 43 Chona Sarmiento, "Rapid Field Appraisal of Decentralization: Zamboanga Peninsula Region 9," Asia Foundation, n.d., 17, <http://asiafoundation.org/resources/pdfs/11ZamboangaPeninsula.pdf>
- 44 Carleneth Fernandez-San Valentin and Juanito G. Berja Jr., "Philippine Food and Nutrition Security Atlas 2012," World Food Programme, March 2012, 40, <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ena/wfp246455.pdf>
- 45 Central Intelligence Agency, "The Philippines: People and Society," The World Factbook, 1 May 2019, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/rp.html>
- 46 Central Intelligence Agency, "The Philippines: People and Society," The World Factbook, 1 May 2019, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/rp.html>

## Cultural Orientation | Chavacano

---

- 47 Mindanao Examiner, "Zamboanga Fights Malnutrition; Steps Up Nutrition Drive," 13 August 2012, <https://mindanaoexaminer.com/zamboanga-fights-malnutrition-steps-up-nutrition-drive/>
- 48 Ana P. Santos, "The City at the Heart of the Philippines's HIV Epidemic," Atlantic, 5 January 2016, <https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2016/01/cebu-city-philippines-hiv-drugs/422700/>
- 49 R. G. Antonet Go, "Rising Trend in HIV-AIDS Cases Alarms Zambo Health Office," Philippine News Agency, 8 November 2018, <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1053322>
- 50 Melo Acuna, "Growing Number of Young Filipinos Committing Suicide," UCA News, 12 March 2018, <https://www.ucanews.com/news/growing-number-of-young-filipinos-committing-suicide/81759>
- 51 Sofia Tomacruz, "National Center for Mental Health Crisis Hotline Now Open," Rappler, 2 May 2019, <https://www.rappler.com/nation/229506-national-center-mental-health-crisis-hotline-now-open-may-2-2019>
- 52 Rappler, "Is the Philippines Ready to Address Mental Health?" 24 January 2019, <https://www.rappler.com/newsbreak/in-depth/211679-philippines-readiness-address-mental-health>
- 53 Outbreak News Today, "Zamboanga Reports Doubling of Dengue This Year," 13 April 2019, <http://outbreaknewstoday.com/zamboanga-reports-doubling-dengue-year-47452/>
- 54 Jocelyn P. Alvarez, "Dengue Cases Up by 81% in ZamPen," ReliefWeb, 15 March 2019, <https://reliefweb.int/report/philippines/dengue-cases-81-zampen>
- 55 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Dengue: Prevention," n.d., <https://www.cdc.gov/dengue/prevention/index.html>
- 56 May B. Miasco, "DOH-7 Keeping Watch on Japanese Encephalitis," Freeman, 7 September 2017, <http://www.philstar.com:8080/cebu-news/2017/09/07/1736655/doh-7-keeping-watch-japanese-encephalitis>
- 57 SunStar Manila, "9 Deaths Reported in PHL Due to Japanese Encephalitis," 5 September 2017, <http://www.sunstar.com.ph/manila/local-news/2017/09/05/9-deaths-reported-phl-due-japanese-encephalitis-562344>
- 58 International Labour Organization, "Feature Story from the Philippines: Making Future Harvests Without Child Labour," 11 June 2007, [http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS\\_082995/lang-en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_082995/lang-en/index.htm)
- 59 State University.com, "Philippines—Educational System—An Overview," n.d., <http://education.stateuniversity.com/pages/1199/Philippines-EDUCATIONAL-SYSTEM-AN-OVERVIEW.html>
- 60 TransferWise, "The Education System in the Philippines," 28 September 2017, <https://transferwise.com/us/blog/the-philippines-education-overview>
- 61 Official Gazette, "Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013," 4 September 2013, <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2013/09/04/irr-republic-act-no-10533/>
- 62 RG Cruz, "House Oks Bill For Mandatory Senior High School ROTC on 2nd Reading," ABS-CBN News, 6 February 2019, <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/02/06/19/house-oks-bill-for-mandatory-senior-high-school-rotc-on-2nd-reading>
- 63 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, "World Data on Education, VII Ed. 2010/11," May 2011, [http://www.ibe.unesco.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Publications/WDE/2010/pdf-versions/Philippines.pdf](http://www.ibe.unesco.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Publications/WDE/2010/pdf-versions/Philippines.pdf)
- 64 City Government of Zamboanga, Philippines, "General Information: Number of Government and Private Schools," 2012, [http://www.zamboanga.gov.ph/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=777&catid=177&Itemid=515](http://www.zamboanga.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=777&catid=177&Itemid=515)
- 65 Government of the Philippines, "The K to 12 Basic Education Program," Official Gazette, 28 September 2012, <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/k-12/>
- 66 Philippine Statistics Authority, "Out-of-School Children and Youth in the Philippines," 20 April 2015, <https://psa.gov.ph/content/out-school-children-and-youth-philippines-results-2013-functional-literacy-education-and>
- 67 Chona Sarmiento, "Rapid Field Appraisal of Decentralization: Zamboanga Peninsula Region 9," Asia Foundation, n.d., 21, <http://asiafoundation.org/resources/pdfs/11ZamboangaPeninsula.pdf>
- 68 Sally E. Baringer, "Culture of the Philippines: Urbanism, Architecture, and the Use of Space," Countries and Their Cultures, n.d., <http://www.everyculture.com/No-Sa/The-Philippines.html>
- 69 Sally E. Baringer, "The Philippines: Commercial Activities," EveryCulture, n.d., <https://www.everyculture.com/No-Sa/The-Philippines.html>

## Cultural Orientation | Chavacano

---

- 70 Department of the Interior and Local Government, Republic of the Philippines, "The Local Government Code of the Philippines: Book III: Local Government Units," n.d., [https://www.academia.edu/10276420/THE\\_LOCAL\\_GOVERNMENT\\_CODE\\_OF\\_THE\\_PHILIPPINES\\_BOOK\\_III\\_LOCAL\\_GOVERNMENT\\_UNITS\\_TITLE\\_ONE.\\_THE\\_BARANGAY\\_CHAPTER\\_1.\\_ROLE\\_AND\\_CREATION\\_OF\\_THE\\_BARANGAY](https://www.academia.edu/10276420/THE_LOCAL_GOVERNMENT_CODE_OF_THE_PHILIPPINES_BOOK_III_LOCAL_GOVERNMENT_UNITS_TITLE_ONE._THE_BARANGAY_CHAPTER_1._ROLE_AND_CREATION_OF_THE_BARANGAY)
- 71 Kahimyang, "Today in Philippine History, September 21, 1974, the Barrio was renamed back to Barangay through PD No. 557," 9 January 2018, <https://kahimyang.com/kauswagan/articles/2253/today-in-philippine-history-september-21-1974-the-barrio-was-renamed-back-to-barangay-through-pd-no-557>
- 72 Carolina G. Hernandez et al., "Philippines: Government and Society: Local Government," Encyclopædia Britannica, 3 May 2019, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Philippines>
- 73 Benjamin R. Punongbayan, "The Barangay System," Business World, 16 August 2018, <https://www.bworldonline.com/the-barangay-system/>
- 74 Benjamin R. Punongbayan, "The Barangay System," Business World, 16 August 2018, <https://www.bworldonline.com/the-barangay-system/>
- 75 Local Government Academy (LGA)Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), "Punong Barangay Tasks and Responsibilities: Checklist," 2018, <https://lga.gov.ph/media/uploads/2/Publications%20PDF/Book/Punong%20Barangay%20Tasks%20and%20Responsibilities%202018.pdf>
- 76 Benjamin R. Punongbayan, "The Barangay System," Business World, 16 August 2018, <https://www.bworldonline.com/the-barangay-system/>
- 77 Sally E. Baringer, "The Philippines: History and Ethnic Relations: Ethnic Relations," Countries and Their Cultures, n.d., <http://www.everyculture.com/No-Sa/The-Philippines.html>
- 78 Amanda T. Fernandez, "Road Map for Peace: Highlights of the Bangsamoro Framework Agreement," GMA News (Philippines), 15 October 2012, [www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/278325/news/nation/road-map-for-peace-highlights-of-the-bangsamoro-framework-agreementBang](http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/278325/news/nation/road-map-for-peace-highlights-of-the-bangsamoro-framework-agreementBang)
- 79 Eugene Mark, „Bangsamoro Peace Process complicated by Philippine Politics,” Diplomat, 13 February 2018, <https://thediplomat.com/2018/02/bangsamoro-peace-process-complicated-by-philippine-politics/>
- 80 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Government, "Travel Advice Philippines: Safety and Security: Terrorism," 23 April 2019, <https://smartraveller.gov.au/Countries/asia/south-east/Pages/philippines.aspx>
- 81 Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State, "Philippines Travel Advisory," 9 April 2019, <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/philippines-travel-advisory.html>
- 82 Foreign & Commonwealth Office, United Kingdom, "Asia and Oceania: Philippines: Safety and Security: Local Travel—Mindanao," 1 October 2012, <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/asia-oceania/philippines>
- 83 Dominic I. Sanchez, "24/7 checkpoints, more police visibility to avert shootings in Zambo," Philippine Information Agency, 12 July 2018, <https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1010259>
- 84 Aris Ilagan, "PNP Issues Updated Guidelines on Checkpoints," BBC TopGear (Philippines), 11 April 2012, <http://www.topgear.com.ph/news/pnp-issues-updated-guidelines-on-checkpoints>
- 85 Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor, "Philippines: Mine Ban Policy," 24 October 2017, <http://www.the-monitor.org/en-gb/reports/2018/philippines/mine-ban-policy.aspx>
- 86 CMO Battalion, 8ID PA, "Use of Landmines: Globally Prohibited," Samar News, 16 December 2010, <http://www.samarnews.com/news2010/dec/a751.htm>
- 87 Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor, "Philippines: Mine Action," 17 September 2012, [http://www.the-monitor.org/index.php/cp/display/region\\_profiles/theme/2127](http://www.the-monitor.org/index.php/cp/display/region_profiles/theme/2127)
- 88 Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor, "Philippines: Casualties and Victim Assistance," 29 September 2014, [http://www.the-monitor.org/index.php/cp/display/region\\_profiles/theme/2128](http://www.the-monitor.org/index.php/cp/display/region_profiles/theme/2128)

# Cultural Orientation

## Chapter 5 | Assessment

1. Around half of the land on the Zamboanga Peninsula is utilized for agricultural purposes.
2. Improved access to rural healthcare has helped eliminate child malnutrition on the peninsula.
3. Rural transportation in the Philippines is dominated by taxi service.
4. Public education is compulsory for grades 1–6 only.
5. The smallest political unit of government is the barangay.

Assessment Answers: 1. True; 2. True; 3. False; 4. False; 5. True





*A family portrait*  
Flickr / Lady May Pamintuan

## Chapter 6 | Chavacano Cultural Orientation

# Family Life

## Introduction

Family is one of the major bonds of Filipino culture. Families cultivate deep loyalties and are expected to care for and support each other. The importance of the family in Filipino culture is demonstrated by the 1936 Constitution that proclaimed the family as the foundation of the nation.<sup>1</sup> The role of the family and its importance to society was further recognized by the national Civil Code, which establishes formal parameters for aspects of family life like marriage and the relationship between a husband and wife. Family can include those of biological or nonbiological relations.<sup>2, 3, 4</sup>

Kinship was the traditional basis of society and identity in the pre-Spanish Philippines. With the arrival of the Spanish came changes to the family and kin relations, including the adoption of *compadrazgo*, a Spanish

kin system based on social contracts and relationships established between godparents and godchildren. Filipinos adapted *compadrazgo* by establishing important bonds between parents and godparents. Church ceremonies legitimizing these relations created a sense of moral responsibility among all parties to support and aid each other as if they were blood relations. Because parents and godparents often see themselves as co-parents, this builds family and kin relations among grandparents, parents, and children, as well as important nonblood relations.<sup>5, 6, 7</sup>

## Typical Household and Family Structure



*Extended family pose together after surviving Typhoon Haiyan*  
Flickr / SIM Central and South East Asia

Strong kinship ties traditionally created households with extended family members living under the same roof.<sup>8</sup> However, this family model has shifted in recent years because many Filipinos have moved abroad in search of better wages. One impact of this trend has been the growing number of single-parent households. The Philippine Statistics Authority estimated in 2015 that there are around 3 million single-parent households; two-thirds of them have female heads of household.<sup>9</sup> In 2015, more than 52% of Filipino children were born out of wedlock.<sup>10</sup> The size of the average household has been declining for many years now—in 2000, the average was 5 people;

in 2010, it dropped to 4.6; in 2015, it dropped to 4.4. The average household size for the Zamboanga Peninsula in 2015 was 4.5 people per household.<sup>11, 12</sup>

Poverty is a major influence on families, as it affects more than a quarter of the population. Housing, malnutrition, significant crime, and child labor exploitation are just some of the serious threats families face when living in poverty.<sup>13, 14</sup> In rural areas throughout the country and on the Zamboanga Peninsula, in particular, it is estimated that at least a third of the population is impoverished.<sup>15, 16</sup>

Attitudes about family life are changing. The percentage of women living with their significant other without being married has grown. Younger couples are delaying marriage until they are more financially stable. Women head almost 20% of Filipino households.<sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> President Duterte was initially in favor of supporting same-sex marriage but has since changed his opinion. Duterte has defied the doctrine of the Catholic Church, however, by expanding access to birth control.<sup>19</sup>



*A family takes a moment for a photo*  
Flickr / Kristin Resurreccion

How many people live in this house?		
Official:	Cuanto hente ta que-da na este casa?	How many people live in this house?
Local:	Veinte	20

Exchange 35

Are these people [children] part of your family?		
Official:	Este manga hente [nino y nina] parte dituyu familia?	Are these people [children] part of your family?
Local:	Si	Yes.

Exchange 36

## Male and Female Interactions



**Couples take tango lessons**

Flickr / Shubert Ciencia

Chavacano speakers, like the country overall, are traditionally patriarchal, although women do hold a relatively high social status. Compared to other nations in the region, Filipino women have enjoyed longstanding equal rights with men under the law. Increasingly, women hold important professional positions within Philippine society. In government, they have served as cabinet members, senators, Supreme Court justices, and president. Women also have many opportunities to pursue education and professional careers.<sup>20, 21</sup>

Over 60% of Filipino women are employed; about half of Filipino couples make joint decisions regarding a wife's wages, and about the same proportion of women make their own healthcare decisions. About two-thirds of couples make joint decisions regarding matters such as relations with extended family and finances.<sup>22</sup> Many household decisions can be made solely by women; it is not necessary for them to seek permission from men in the family.<sup>23</sup> Women usually manage the family's finances and often hold full-time jobs, even while raising children and running a household. Extended family members are often available to help the working mother with childcare.<sup>24, 25, 26</sup>

Domestic violence, rape, and prostitution are all serious problems in the Philippines. Although such crimes are illegal, enforcement has been ineffective. Sex tourism is also a source of exploitation and forced labor. Sexual harassment is widespread in the workplace. Cases of violence against women often go unreported.<sup>27, 28</sup>

Since women were granted the right to vote and to be elected in 1937, Filipinas have become important leaders in national and local government, including presidents Corazon Aquino (1986–92) and Gloria



Macapagal-Arroyo (2001–10).<sup>29</sup> Women account for 28.5% of elected representatives in Congress, 22.5% of provincial governors, 23.4% of vice governors, 23.2% of city mayors, and 19.8% of vice mayors.<sup>30</sup> The Philippine Magna Carta for Women, passed in 2009, protects women's human rights—protections that include antidiscrimination measures, the right to inherit property, and time off for health issues.<sup>31, 32</sup> In spite of this legal protection, women face discrimination in hiring and the workplace.<sup>33</sup>

## Status of Elders, Adolescents, and Children

### Elders

Elderly citizens made up 6.9% of the total population in 2010; this is anticipated to grow to 11.5% by 2030.<sup>34</sup> Grandparents and other elders are respected for their age and the wisdom that they can pass on to young children, such as teaching them about societal norms. In the home, elders are expected to model appropriate conduct for children. If there are young children in the household, grandparents will customarily look after them. Once children become adults, the responsibility to remain available to care for the aging parents is assumed by one of them, often a daughter. The role of elders in Philippine society creates a mutually beneficial network in which working parents have family members to provide childcare, and aging parents remain integrated into family life rather than live alone.<sup>35, 36</sup>



*Family pose together at a reunion*  
Flickr / Joshua Bousel

Filipinos traditionally express respect to elders through the greeting known as *mano*. This greeting is performed by taking the back of the elder's hand and gently pressing it to their forehead after a slight bow. Many times, the elder will be asked, "*mano po?*" as a way of getting permission to perform the greeting. In recent years, the *beso-beso* greeting, or a cheek-to-cheek kiss, has also become a popular way to greet elders.<sup>37</sup>

### Adolescents and Children

Children are indulged in Filipino families and continually surrounded by family members. Extended families are typically close, and parents often send children to stay for long periods of time with aunts, grandparents, or other relatives. Within the home, children are usually in the company of siblings, parents, aunts, uncles, or other members of the family. Babies are constantly cared for and often held protectively by their mothers or another family member. Few demands, if any, are made on young children. They are expected to learn gradually, within an environment that is relatively free from anxiety or overly high expectations.<sup>38, 39, 40</sup>





**Filipino children at play**  
Flickr / John Christian Fjellestad

Throughout their lives, children learn to show deference and respect to older family members.<sup>41, 42</sup> Parents expect them to respect older siblings and refrain from fighting or speaking arrogantly to them. Children also learn to ask for permission when they want something. Older siblings learn to care for younger ones and assume responsibility for their well-being in the parents' absence. As children grow up, close bonds with their family remain, and parents do not expect or require them to move out until they marry. Sometimes, adult children continue to live with their parents even after they marry.<sup>43</sup>

The age of consent in the Philippines is 12 years old. The age of consent is the legally defined age at which a person is deemed legally competent to consent to sexual activity. Any person who violates this law can be prosecuted under statutory rape laws. The only country in which the age of consent is lower than in the Philippines is Nigeria, where it is 11.<sup>44</sup>

## Married Life, Divorce, and Birth

### Marriage

Marriage creates new family ties that extend for several generations and hold the social order together in the Philippines. Through marriage, the Filipino extended family becomes a much larger network. From this foundation, family members can rely on each other for help and support throughout their lifetimes.<sup>45</sup>

According to the 1988 family code of the Philippines, the minimum legal age for marriage is 18, but parental or guardian consent is a legal requirement for anyone under the age of 21.<sup>46</sup> May is the most popular month for marriages. Filipinos generally marry while in their twenties—29 for men and 27 for women—although



**Newlyweds pose for a photo at the Matigsalug Bible Institute**  
Flickr / Phil Warren

those in urban areas tend to marry later than rural residents. Since 2008, there has been a relatively steady decline in marriages, hitting a low in 2016 of about 420,000 marriages, a contrast to the nearly 500,000 marriages that took place in 2009.<sup>47, 48</sup> Many couples remain engaged for a few years in order to become financially stable, finish their educations, or build a foundation in their careers before they marry.<sup>49</sup> It is common for Filipinos to begin their own families around a year after marriage. The presence of children represents good fortune and establishes stronger ties between the newly married couple and their extended families.<sup>50, 51</sup>

Congratulations on your marriage!		
Visitor:	Felicidad na tu casamiento!	Congratulations on your marriage!
Local:	Bien alegre gayot cami na ta qui tu ahora	We are honored to have you here

*Exchange 37*

## Divorce

The Philippines is the only country besides Vatican City, where divorce is illegal.<sup>52</sup> On the Zamboanga Peninsula, as it is throughout the nation, Catholicism remains the majority religion and is highly influential. Filipinos have the option of receiving a religious annulment or a civil annulment, but the costly process can take years, and there is no guarantee of success. Those who do not legally end their marriage and pursue new relationships can be charged with adultery. Annulments can only be granted for very limited reasons, such as fraud, coercion, or physiological incapacitation.<sup>53, 54</sup>

Divorce is becoming a hot political issue as candidates increasingly campaign on legalizing it or expanding annulment rules.<sup>55</sup> In 2018, a bill was passed by the Philippine House of Representatives to legalize “absolute divorce” after more than a decade of debate. Bills have been introduced frequently in Congress, speaking to the strong desire to see divorce legalized, but conservative or religious activism has stalled efforts for a long time.<sup>56</sup>

## Birth

After the birth of a child, the mother often rests for up to a month while members of her extended family handle the household duties and upkeep.<sup>57</sup> Mothers often stay in their homes with their newborns and do not go outside until three or four weeks have passed. The child’s first outing is typically to the doctor’s office, and the second is to see a priest, who will baptize or bless the child.<sup>58</sup> For most Filipino families, there is no cultural preference for having a boy or a girl.<sup>59</sup> The Philippine Department of Health encourages citizens to use hospitals or other designated medical facilities, as the Philippines has had a high maternal and infant mortality rate. Current statistics show that 14 deaths occur per every 1,000 live births.<sup>60</sup>



**Woman with newborn baby in the Philippines**  
*Flickr / Israel Defense Forces*

## Family Social Events

### Weddings

Wedding norms in the Philippines are relatively similar to traditional norms found in Western countries. When partners decide to marry, the intended groom, often accompanied by members of his family, will ask the bride's parents if they will consent to the marriage. If they do, both families begin preparations for the wedding.<sup>61, 62</sup> Wedding ceremonies may be either civil or religious. Both require the presentation of a valid marriage license. In addition, church weddings require copies of baptismal and confirmation certificates at least one month prior to the scheduled services.<sup>63</sup> Church weddings are often more expensive than civil weddings, which has led as many as half of Filipinos to opt for civil ceremonies.<sup>64, 65</sup>



*Bride and groom at the San Agustin church*  
Flickr / LauterGold

Many brides wear a Western-style white wedding gown. Men wear the traditional sheer embroidered shirt over a white t-shirt and black pants. Some men, however, wear the Western style tuxedo. Some traditional wedding practices are still used, such as ceremonial sponsors who witness the wedding. Sponsors are people whom the bride and groom trust and respect, or can be prominent people from the community.<sup>66</sup> They take the role of witnesses and assume responsibility for specific parts of the wedding, such as lighting candles or placing a veil on the bride's head.<sup>67</sup> An elaborate feast accompanied by music and dancing follows the wedding ceremony.<sup>68</sup>

### Funerals



*A hearse with flowers adorning its roof*  
Flickr / Joe Coyle

Funeral traditions in the Philippines are similar to those of other predominantly Catholic countries. In the Chavacano region of Zamboanga Peninsula, this is no different.<sup>69</sup> Once an individual dies, friends and family gather at the deceased's home to provide comfort and support. Family members often stand vigil over the body until it is buried, which could be as many as three days after death. All kin are expected to come to the home. The Filipino notion of hospitality dictates that the family, no matter how close to the deceased, will provide food or other refreshments to any guests.<sup>70</sup>

Grieving takes place publicly in groups and is expressive, rather than reserved, although men tend to be more private with their feelings. Family members often grieve for up to a year or more, wearing black clothing or a black ribbon to symbolize mourning. After the burial, many families offer evening prayers for nine days, and on the last day, share a formal meal with friends and family. This ritual signifies the belief that the ninth day is the time when the deceased's soul moves on to the afterlife.<sup>71, 72</sup>

Another tradition observed by many Filipinos is to visit deceased friends and relatives on All Saints Day, rather than the traditional All Souls Day. Many Filipinos visit cemeteries at dusk to hold all-night vigils at their loved ones' graves.<sup>73</sup>

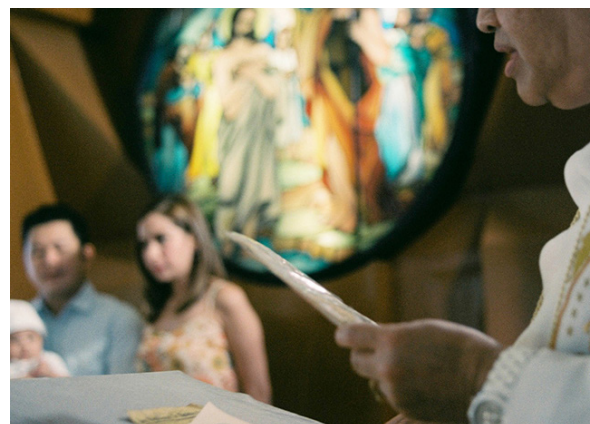
I offer my condolences to you and your family.		
Visitor:	Yu taqui para dale contigo condolencia y tu yu familia ta men.	I offer my condolenc-es to you and your family.
Local:	Gracias ta qui tu canamun.	Thank you for being with us.

*Exchange 38*

Funerals in the Philippines are expensive, and families receive *abuloy*, or donations, to help cover costs. A unique tradition is to gamble during the wake, and although there has been some opposition to the practice by Catholic authorities, it is considered a legal pastime by the government. A requiem mass is held, and the deceased is buried in the local cemetery. Some cemeteries in urban areas are overcrowded. Filipino Muslims bury the deceased within 24 hours in accordance with Islamic tradition.<sup>74, 75, 76</sup>

## Baptism

Baptism is an important part of a Chavacano Catholic's life. It is the first of the seven sacraments that he or she can receive in life. Baptism initiates one into the Catholic Church, providing the blessings associated with the rite, and is necessary for salvation in accordance with Catholic practices. Catholics in the Philippines are urged to baptize their infants within three months of birth. This guidance was given because some families put off baptism, as they feel they can't afford to pay for the accompanying large parties and social events.<sup>77, 78, 79</sup> If they can afford to do so, family and friends assemble at the church, dressed in formal attire, for the consecration ceremony. A godparent is designated to witness the infant's baptism, as well as assist in the religious upbringing of the infant. Godparents are customarily Catholics in good standing with the church and who have received the necessary religious rites. Afterward, guests are treated to a feast hosted by the parents.<sup>80, 81</sup>



*Parents wait with their baby during a baptism ceremony  
Flickr / Lady May Pamintuan*



## Naming Conventions

As with other ethnic groups throughout the Philippines, Chavacano names are commonly derived from both Malay and Spanish backgrounds. There are a number of indigenous family names that predate Spanish influence. While religious names are very common in the country, nonreligious names are often used. Traditional naming conventions include a given first name, the mother's maiden name as the middle name, and the father's family name as the surname.<sup>82, 83</sup>



**A man poses with a baby**  
*Flickr / Lady May Pamintuan*

The most popular first names in the Philippines are biblical, resulting from the prominence of Catholicism, and secular names that are commonly heard in the United States. Combination names such as John Paul, John Mark, Angel Mae, and Mary Grace are also common. For baby girls, the most popular names of 2015 were Angel, Althea, Princess, Ashley, and Samantha.<sup>84, 85, 86</sup>

Children also usually have lifelong nicknames, used by family and friends. Children born out of wedlock traditionally had a given name, followed by the mother's maternal surname, and the mother's surname.<sup>87</sup> A change to the Family Code in 2004 has allowed for children in these circumstances to take the father's surname.<sup>88</sup>



**A couple poses with a baby**  
*Flickr / Guian Bolisay*

Nicknames are common and are used to differentiate between family members with similar names and among individuals with common names. Nicknames may come from a variety of sources, such as the case with Ceferino “Joker” Paz Arroyo, Jr., a Filipino public official who received his nickname because his father loved card games. Public figures often draw nicknames from the media or the public as their profile grows.<sup>89, 90, 91</sup>

In 1849, the colonial government mandated that Filipinos adopt a Spanish surname for census and taxation purposes. Traditional surnames and naming

conventions were replaced by Spanish surnames and naming traditions. Filipinos within a small geographical area were often assigned a single surname or surnames that started with the same letter. Individuals and families who were previously registered with the Spanish government retained their traditional name. Traditional surnames were based on the geography of a person's surroundings, life events, and unique characteristics. Traditional surnames, which have since been passed through the generations, include adjectives and nouns that may sound unflattering or confusing to those unfamiliar with the name's origin.<sup>92, 93</sup>

## Endnotes for Chapter 6: Family Life

- 1 World Family Declaration, "World Family Declaration," n.d., <http://worldfamilydeclaration.org/WFD>
- 2 Cultural Atlas, "Filipino Culture: Family," n.d., <https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/filipino-culture/filipino-culture-family>
- 3 CRALaw, "The Family Code of the Philippines: Executive Order No. 209," 6 July 1987, <http://www.chanrobles.com/executiveorderno209.htm#XNCIxKJ7m70>
- 4 Jeffrey Hays, "Filipino Society," Facts and Details, June 2015, [http://factsanddetails.com/southeast-asia/Philippines/sub5\\_6c/entry-3888.html](http://factsanddetails.com/southeast-asia/Philippines/sub5_6c/entry-3888.html)
- 5 F. A. Ortiz and K. Davis, "Compadrazgo," in *Hispanic American Religious Cultures*, ed. Miguel A. De La Torre (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2009), 246, <https://epdf.tips/hispanic-american-religious-cultures-2-volumes-set.html>
- 6 Jeffrey Hays, "Filipino Society," Facts and Details, June 2015, [http://factsanddetails.com/southeast-asia/Philippines/sub5\\_6c/entry-3888.html](http://factsanddetails.com/southeast-asia/Philippines/sub5_6c/entry-3888.html)
- 7 Living in the Philippines, "Family Structure," 2019, <https://www.livinginthephilippines.com/culture-and-people/philippine-culture/1308-family-structure>
- 8 Hierarchy Structure, "Filipino Family Hierarchy," 2018, <https://www.hierarchystructure.com/filipino-family-hierarchy/>
- 9 Regine Cabato, "The Cost of Being a Single Mother in the Philippines," CNN Life, 28 March 2018, <http://nine.cnnphilippines.com/life/culture/2018/03/27/single-mothers-Philippines.html>
- 10 Manila Standard, "Most Filipino Babies Born Out Of Wedlock—PSA Study," 10 June 2017, <http://www.manilastandard.net/business/biz-plus/238992/most-filipino-babies-born-out-of-wedlock-psa-study.html>
- 11 Republic of the Philippines, "Population of Zamboanga City is Four Times Higher in 40 years), Philippine Statistics Authority, 23 June 2013, <https://psa.gov.ph/content/population-zamboanga-city-four-times-higher-40-years-results-2010-census-population-and>
- 12 Republic of the Philippines, "Highlights on Household Population, Number of Households, and Average Size of the Philippines (2015 Census of Population)," Philippine Statistics Authority, 29 December 2016, <https://psa.gov.ph/content/highlights-household-population-number-households-and-average-household-size-philippines>
- 13 Republic of the Philippines, "Poverty Incidence Among Filipinos Registered at 26.3% as of First Semester of 2015," Philippine Statistics Authority, 18 March 2016, <https://psa.gov.ph/content/poverty-incidence-among-filipinos-registered-263-first-semester-2015-psa>
- 14 The Borgen Project, "The Extreme Effects of Poverty in the Philippines," 17 February 2018, <https://borgenproject.org/effects-of-poverty-in-the-philippines/effects-of-poverty-in-the-philippines/>
- 15 Borgen Project, "Top 10 Facts about Poverty in the Philippines," 19 August 2018, <https://borgenproject.org/facts-about-poverty-in-the-philippines/>
- 16 Republic of the Philippines, "Region IX—Zamboanga Peninsula Poverty Statistics," Philippine Statistics Authority, 2015, <http://rsso09.psa.gov.ph/poverty>
- 17 Republic of the Philippines, "Philippines National Demographic and Health Survey 2017," Philippine Statistics Authority, 2017, <http://www.psa.gov.ph/content/national-demographic-and-health-survey-ndhs>
- 18 Felipe Villamor, "Duterte Opposes Gay Marriage in Philippines, Reversing Campaign Pledge," New York Times, 20 March 2017, <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/20/world/asia/duterte-same-sex-marriage-philippines.html?mcubz=0>
- 19 Camila Domonoske, "In Majority Catholic Philippines, Duterte Orders Better Access to Birth Control," NPR, 12 January 2017, <http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/01/12/509462732/in-majority-catholic-philippines-duterte-orders-better-access-to-birth-control>
- 20 Living in the Philippines, "Marital and Parental Roles/Expectations of Culture," 2019, <https://www.livinginthephilippines.com/culture-and-people/philippine-culture/410-marital-and-parental-rolesexpectation-of-culture>
- 21 Michael Bueza, "Key women in Philippine Government," Rappler, 9 March 2014, <https://www.rappler.com/newsbreak/iq/52513-key-women-philippine-government>
- 22 Thomas M. Landy, "Family, Marriage, and Gender Roles," Catholics and Culture, 15 August 2017, <https://www.catholicsandcultures.org/philippines/family-marriage-and-gender-roles>
- 23 CultureGrams Online Edition, "Republic of the Philippines: Family," ProQuest and Brigham Young University, 2019, [http://online.culturegrams.com/world/world\\_country\\_sections.php?cid=126&cn=Philippines&sname=Family&snid=11](http://online.culturegrams.com/world/world_country_sections.php?cid=126&cn=Philippines&sname=Family&snid=11)

## Cultural Orientation | Chavacano

---

- 24 Cultural Atlas, "Filipino Culture—Family," n.d., <https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/filipino-culture/filipino-culture-family>
- 25 Countries and Their Cultures, "Republic of the Philippines: Marriage, Family and Kinship," n.d., <http://www.everyculture.com/No-Sa/The-Philippines.html>
- 26 Living in the Philippines, "Marital and Parental Roles/Expectation of Culture," 2012, <https://www.livinginthephilippines.com/culture-and-people/philippine-culture/410-marital-and-parental-rolesexpectation-of-culture>
- 27 U.S. Department of State, "Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 2018," Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, 13 March 2019, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2018-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/philippines/>
- 28 Grace N. Mallorca-Bernabe, "A Deeper Look at Violence Against Women (VAW): The Philippine Case," Peace and Conflict Monitor, n.d., [https://healthdocbox.com/Womens\\_Health/71441888-A-deeper-look-at-violence-against-women-vaw-the-philippine-case.html](https://healthdocbox.com/Womens_Health/71441888-A-deeper-look-at-violence-against-women-vaw-the-philippine-case.html)
- 29 Women Sphere, "Women's Suffrage in the Philippines 71 Years after," 6 May 2008, <https://womensphere.wordpress.com/2008/05/06/womens-suffrage-in-the-philippines-71-years-after/>
- 30 Philippine Commission on Women, "Politics and Governance," National Machinery for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, 13 May 2014, <https://www.pcw.gov.ph/statistics/201405/women-participation-politics-and-governance>
- 31 Philippine Statistics Authority, ICF International, "Philippines National Demographic and Health Survey 2017," USAID, 2017, <http://www.psa.gov.ph/content/national-demographic-and-health-survey-ndhs>
- 32 Republic of the Philippines, "Q&A: Magna Carta of Women (Republic Act No. 9710)," Philippine Statistics Authority, 15 March 2010, <https://psa.gov.ph/content/q-magna-carta-women-republic-act-no-9710>
- 33 U.S. Department of State, "Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 2018," Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, 13 March 2019, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2018-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/philippines/>
- 34 HelpAge Global Network, "Ageing Population in the Philippines," n.d., <http://ageingasiasia.org/ageing-population-philippines/>
- 35 Countries and Their Cultures, "Republic of the Philippines: Marriage, Family and Kinship," n.d., <http://www.everyculture.com/No-Sa/The-Philippines.html>
- 36 Jeffrey Hays, "Children in the Philippines," Facts and Details, June 2015, [http://factsanddetails.com/southeast-asia/Philippines/sub5\\_6c/entry-3877.html](http://factsanddetails.com/southeast-asia/Philippines/sub5_6c/entry-3877.html)
- 37 Cultural Atlas, "Filipino Culture—Greetings—Mano," n.d., <https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/filipino-culture/filipino-culture-greetings>
- 38 Countries and Their Cultures, "Republic of the Philippines: Socialization," n.d., <http://www.everyculture.com/No-Sa/The-Philippines.html>
- 39 Living in the Philippines, "Infancy and Harmony," 2019, <http://www.livinginthephilippines.com/culture-and-people/philippine-culture/405-infancy-and-harmony>
- 40 Countries and Their Cultures, "Republic of the Philippines: Marriage, Family and Kinship," n.d., <http://www.everyculture.com/No-Sa/The-Philippines.html>
- 41 Living in the Philippines, "Marital and Parental Roles/Expectations of Culture," 2019, <https://www.livinginthephilippines.com/culture-and-people/philippine-culture/410-marital-and-parental-rolesexpectation-of-culture>
- 42 Kashiwagi Shiho, "Filipino Hospitality and Respect for the Aged," Nippon.com, 15 January 2017, <https://www.nippon.com/en/features/c02810/filipino-hospitality-and-respect-for-the-aged.html>
- 43 Living in the Philippines, "Infancy and Harmony," 2019, <http://www.livinginthephilippines.com/culture-and-people/philippine-culture/405-infancy-and-harmony>
- 44 Age of Consent, "Highest and Lowest Ages of Consent," n.d., <https://www.ageofconsent.net/highest-and-lowest>
- 45 Living in the Philippines, "The Elemental Philippine Family," 2019, <https://www.livinginthephilippines.com/culture-and-people/philippine-culture/articles-about-philippines/429-the-elemental-filipino-family>
- 46 U.S. Department of State, "Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 2018," Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, 13 March 2019, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2018-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/philippines/>
- 47 Republic of the Philippines, "Marriage in the Philippines, 2017," Philippine Statistics Authority, 26 September 2018, <https://psa.gov.ph/content/marriage-philippines-2017>

## Cultural Orientation | Chavacano

---

- 48 Ralf Rivas, "In Charts: Most Filipinos Still Marry Before 30," Rappler, 23 September 2018, <https://www.rappler.com/newsbreak/iq/212641-charts-philippines-marriage-statistics-2017>
- 49 Arnold Cafe, "Filipino Catholic Couples Opt Not to Get Married in the Church for Economic Reasons," Ideas Galore, 11 October 2012, <http://affleap.com/filipino-catholic-couples-opt-not-to-get-married-in-the-church-for-economic-reasons/>
- 50 Countries and Their Cultures, "Culture of the Philippines: Marriage, Family and Kinship," 2012, <http://www.everyculture.com/No-Sa/The-Philippines.html>
- 51 Living in the Philippines, "Marital and Parental Roles/Expectations of Culture," 2019, <https://www.livinginthephilippines.com/culture-and-people/philippine-culture/410-marital-and-parental-rolesexpectation-of-culture>
- 52 Jojo Malig, "Is Philippines Ready for a Divorce Law?" ABS-CBN News, 7 June 2012, <http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/depth/06/07/12/philippines-ready-divorce-law>
- 53 Tom Hundley and Ana P. Santos, "World's Last Legal Ban on Divorce Doesn't Keep Philippines Couples Together," Washington Post, 10 October 2014, [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/worlds-last-legal-ban-on-divorce-doesnt-keep-philippines-couples-together/2014/10/09/d391c54c-4418-11e4-b437-1a7368204804\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.634cc39570bd](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/worlds-last-legal-ban-on-divorce-doesnt-keep-philippines-couples-together/2014/10/09/d391c54c-4418-11e4-b437-1a7368204804_story.html?utm_term=.634cc39570bd)
- 54 Ana P. Santos, "Ending a Marriage in the Only Country That Bans Divorce," Atlantic, 25 June 2015, <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/06/divorce-philippines-annulment/396449/>
- 55 Hannah Torregoza, "Diokno to Support Efforts to Legalize Divorce, Same Sec Marriage in Senate," Manila Bulletin, 8 May 2019, <https://news.mb.com.ph/2019/05/08/diokno-to-support-efforts-to-legalize-divorce-same-sex-marriage-in-senate/>
- 56 Christine Cudis, "PH Divorce Bill Status: It's Complicated," Philippine News Agency, 14 February 2019, <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1061868>
- 57 Queensland Government, "Filipino Ethnicity and Background: After Birth," n.d., [http://www.health.qld.gov.au/multicultural/health\\_workers/filipino-preg-prof.pdf](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/multicultural/health_workers/filipino-preg-prof.pdf)
- 58 Living in the Philippines, "Infancy and Harmony," 2019, <http://www.livinginthephilippines.com/culture-and-people/philippine-culture/405-infancy-and-harmony>
- 59 Social Institutions and Gender Index, "Philippines: Son Bias," 2012, <https://www.genderindex.org/country/philippines/>
- 60 UNICEF, "Philippines," n.d., <https://data.unicef.org/country/ph/>
- 61 CultureGrams Online Edition, "Republic of the Philippines: Dating and Marriage," ProQuest and Brigham Young University, 2019, [http://online.culturegrams.com/world/world\\_country\\_sections.php?cid=126&cn=Philippines&sn=Dating\\_and\\_Marriage&snid=12](http://online.culturegrams.com/world/world_country_sections.php?cid=126&cn=Philippines&sn=Dating_and_Marriage&snid=12)
- 62 Jeffrey Hays, "Weddings in the Philippines," Facts and Details, June 2015, [http://factsanddetails.com/southeast-asia/Philippines/sub5\\_6c/entry-3871.html](http://factsanddetails.com/southeast-asia/Philippines/sub5_6c/entry-3871.html)
- 63 Philippine Wedding, "Church or Civil Wedding?" 2011, <http://www.philippine-wedding.com/weddingpreparation/churchorcivilwedding>
- 64 Earl Victor L. Rosero, "Half of Married Pinoy Catholics Did Not Get Married in Church," GMA News, 12 October 2012, <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/278003/lifestyle/people/half-of-married-pinoy-catholics-did-not-get-married-in-church>
- 65 Tina G. Santos, "Half of Filipino Catholics Shunning Church Weddings," Philippine Daily Inquirer, 12 October 2012, <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/287358/over-50-of-catholics-have-not-had-church-weddings-survey>
- 66 MyBarong, "Ceremony," 2019, <http://mybarong2.com/ceremony-art-1075.html>
- 67 AsiaRecipe, "Philippine Wedding Culture and Superstitions," 23 August 2010, <http://asiarecipe.com/phiwedding.html>
- 68 Jeffery Hays, "Weddings in the Philippines," Facts and Details, June 2015, [http://factsanddetails.com/southeast-asia/Philippines/sub5\\_6c/entry-3871.html](http://factsanddetails.com/southeast-asia/Philippines/sub5_6c/entry-3871.html)
- 69 Sandi Clark, "Death and Loss in the Philippines" (paper for course: Grief in a Family Context, Indiana University, Bloomington, 1998), <http://www.indiana.edu/~familygrf/culture/clark.html>
- 70 Jeffrey Hays, "Funerals in the Philippines," Facts and Details, June 2015, [http://factsanddetails.com/southeast-asia/Philippines/sub5\\_6c/entry-3864.html](http://factsanddetails.com/southeast-asia/Philippines/sub5_6c/entry-3864.html)
- 71 Sandi Clark, "Death and Loss in the Philippines" (paper for course: Grief in a Family Context, Indiana University, Bloomington, 1998), <http://www.indiana.edu/~familygrf/culture/clark.html>
- 72 Jeffrey Hays, "Funerals in the Philippines," Facts and Details, June 2015, [http://factsanddetails.com/southeast-asia/Philippines/sub5\\_6c/entry-3864.html](http://factsanddetails.com/southeast-asia/Philippines/sub5_6c/entry-3864.html)



## Cultural Orientation | Chavacano

---

- 73 Elfren S. Cruz, "Undas in Filipino Culture," Philippine Star, 31 October 2013, <http://www.philstar.com/opinion/2013/10/31/1251413/undas-filipino-culture>
- 74 Bobby G. Nalzar, "Nalzar: Gambling During Wakes as a Pastime," SunStar Cebu, 10 January 2016, <http://www.sunstar.com.ph/cebu/opinion/2016/01/10/nalzar-gambling-during-wakes-pastime-451045>
- 75 Freeman, Cost of Dying in the Philippines; Can We Afford to Die?" 31 October 2016, <https://www.philstar.com/the-freeman/cebu-business/2016/10/31/1638043/cost-dying-philippines-can-we-afford-die>
- 76 ABS-CBN News, "Abuloy: How Much Should You Give?" 27 October 2014, <http://news.abs-cbn.com/business/10/27/14/abuloy-how-much-should-you-give>
- 77 John A. Hardon, "The Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation," Catholic Education Resource Center, n.d., <http://www.catholiceducation.org/en/culture/catholic-contributions/the-sacraments-of-baptism-and-confirmation.html>
- 78 William Saunders, "The Role of Godparents," Catholic Education Resource Center, n.d., <http://www.catholiceducation.org/en/culture/catholic-contributions/the-role-of-godparents.html>
- 79 Philip C. Tubeza, "Catholics Urged to Have Babies Baptized as Soon as Possible," Philippine Daily Inquirer, 7 April 2012, <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/173155/catholics-urged-to-have-babies-baptized-as-soon-as-possible>
- 80 Living in the Philippines, "Introduction to Philippine Culture: Infancy and Harmony," 2012, [http://www.livinginthephilippines.com/philculture/infancy\\_harmony.html](http://www.livinginthephilippines.com/philculture/infancy_harmony.html)
- 81 Philippine Primer, "Expats' Guide to Being Godparents in the Philippines," 4 December 2016, <http://primer.com.ph/tips-guides/2016/12/04/expats-guide-to-being-godparents-in-the-philippines/>
- 82 Jeffery Hays, "Names and Brief History of the Philippines," Facts and Details, June 2015, [http://factsanddetails.com/southeast-asia/Philippines/sub5\\_6a/entry-3159.html](http://factsanddetails.com/southeast-asia/Philippines/sub5_6a/entry-3159.html)
- 83 Cultural Atlas, "Filipino Culture: Naming," n.d., <http://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/filipino-culture/filipino-culture-naming>
- 84 ABS-CBN News, "Most Popular Names of Baby Girls in the Philippines," 11 July 2017, <https://news.abs-cbn.com/life/07/10/17/most-popular-names-for-baby-girls-in-the-philippines>
- 85 ABS-CBN, "Most Popular Names of Baby Boys in the Philippines," 10 July 2017, <http://news.abs-cbn.com/life/07/10/17/most-popular-names-of-baby-boys-in-the-philippines>
- 86 Kristalle Garcia-Kekert, "Popular 100 Baby Names of the Year," Freeman, 7 January 2013, <http://www.philstar.com/cebu-lifestyle/2013/01/07/894207/popular-100-baby-names-year>
- 87 Chan Robles Virtual Law Library, "The Family Code of the Philippines: Full Text," 16 July 1987, [http://www.chanrobles.com/executiveorderno209.htm#\\_UKbD6oYbg1A](http://www.chanrobles.com/executiveorderno209.htm#_UKbD6oYbg1A)
- 88 Joey Gabieta, "More Couples Using Law Giving Kids Dads' Names," Inquirer News, 24 January 2012, <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/133511/more-couples-using-law-giving-kids-dads%E2%80%99-names>
- 89 Kate McGeown, "Playful Filipino Names Hard to Get Used to," BBC Radio, 27 March 2011, [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/from\\_our\\_own\\_correspondent/9435751.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/from_our_own_correspondent/9435751.stm)
- 90 Juanito Jabat, "Nicknames," Freeman, 22 November 2010, <http://www.philstar.com/freeman-opinion/632048/nicknames>
- 91 Floyd Whaley, "Joker Arroyo, Who Challenged Martial Law in the Philippines, Dies at 88," New York Times, 7 October 2015, <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/08/world/asia/joker-arroyo-philippines-senator-died.html?mcubz=0>
- 92 Penelope V. Flores, "How Filipinos Got Their Surnames," Positively Filipino, 6 January 2016, <http://www.positivelyfilipino.com/magazine/how-filipinos-got-their-surnames>
- 93 Alyosha J. Robillos, "Got a Funny, Embarrassing Name? Worry No More," 28 March 2015, CNN Philippines, <http://cnnphilippines.com/lifestyle/2015/03/03/weird-filipino-names.html>

# Cultural Orientation

## Chapter 6 | Assessment

1. The concept of “compadrazgo” refers to the strong familial bonds and obligations among godparents, godchildren, and their parents.
2. The average household on the Zamboanga Peninsula has six children.
3. Women in the Philippines have the legal right to inherit property.
4. Except for Vatican City, the Philippines is the only nation where divorce is illegal.
5. In the Malay (pre-Spanish) culture, surnames were given to people by governing officials.

*Assessment Answers: 1. True; 2. False; 3. True; 4. True; 5. False*

# Further Reading

## Articles

Ager, Simon. "Chavacano." Omniglot—Writing Systems and Languages of the World. 1998–2013.

<http://www.omniglot.com/writing/chavacano.php>

Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Northern Illinois University. "Indigenous Religious Beliefs and Cosmology of the Filipino." 1997–2012.

[http://www.seasite.niu.edu/Tagalog/Modules/Modules/PhilippineReligions/article\\_indigenous\\_beliefs.htm](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/Tagalog/Modules/Modules/PhilippineReligions/article_indigenous_beliefs.htm)

Forman, Michael L. "Confidence in Chabacano: Counterbalance to a Western Ideology of Language." *Estudios de Sociolingüística* 2, no. 2 (2001): 95–117.

<http://filipinokastila.tripod.com/chaba10.html>

Lewis, M. Paul, ed. "Chavacano: A Language of Philippines." *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*, 16th ed. Dallas: SIL International, 2011.

[http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_language.asp?code=cbk](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=cbk)

Steinkrüger, Patrick O. "The Puzzling Case of Chabacano: Creolization, Substrate, Mixing, and Secondary Contact." Paper presented at the Tenth International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics, Palawan, Philippines, Linguistic Society of the Philippines and SIL International, 17–20 January 2006.

[http://www.sil.org/asia/philippines/ical/papers/Steinkrueger-The\\_Puzzling\\_Case\\_of\\_Chavacano.pdf](http://www.sil.org/asia/philippines/ical/papers/Steinkrueger-The_Puzzling_Case_of_Chavacano.pdf)

Omniglot. "Chavacano." n.d.

<http://www.omniglot.com/writing/chavacano.php>

Lipski, John M. "Chabacano/Spanish, and the Philippine Linguistic Identity." Pennsylvania State University, 6 August 2001.

<http://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/19d0/928a2f926e7dcee81abe345b95215a56d10a.pdf>

World History. "The Chavacano or Zamboanga Language." 15 April 2018.

<https://worldhistory.us/general/the-chavacano-or-zamboanga-language-spanish-based-creole-tongue-of-the-philippines-a-part-of-culture.php>

Ethnic Groups of the Philippines. "Zamboangueño." n.d.

<http://www.ethnicgroupspilippines.com/people/ethnic-groups-in-the-philippines/zamboangueno/>

Wernstedt, Frederick L., and Spencer, J. E. The Philippine Island World: A Physical, Cultural, and Regional Geography. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1967.



# Final Assessment

1. Zamboangueños are Chavacano-speaking Filipinos.
2. Basilan Island is primarily populated by Christians.
3. The primary business center for the island of Mindanao is Zamboanga City.
4. Zamboanga City lies in the typhoon belt that runs through the Philippines.
5. The Zamboanga Peninsula's economy is primarily based on the export of oil.
6. The Catholic Church wields little influence in the country.
7. Religion plays a major role in the daily lives of most Chavacano speakers.
8. Holy Week is celebrated in the Philippines between Christmas and New Year's Day.
9. The Spanish government subsidized missionary activity in the Philippines as part of its efforts to colonize the region.

10. Divorce has strong support among the Filipino population.
11. Causing or experiencing shame is a serious cultural issue in the Philippines.
12. When greeting a Filipino person, informal forms of address are preferred over titles.
13. Food from the Chavacano-dominant region of the Philippines is known for its spicy flavors.
14. It is common for people living in rural areas to sit down with others at each meal.
15. Rizal Day honors a national hero who fought against the Japanese assault in World War II.
16. Despite its wealthy status, poverty is common in Zamboanga City.
17. Barangays are the smallest settlements or administrative units in the country.
18. There is no free public school option for children in the Philippines.

19. Bargaining for lower prices in a Filipino market is a way to create interpersonal relationships.
20. The Philippines only has private healthcare facilities.
21. Agriculture and fisheries are by far the most important resources on the Zamboanga Peninsula.
22. The head of a barangay is called a kagawad.
23. Nurses earn high, competitive salaries in the Philippines, attracting nurses from outside of the country.
24. The main reason students leave school is that the culture does not value education.
25. Few of the lands on the Zamboanga Peninsula have been redistributed in accordance with the land reform policies.
26. Less than one-third of Filipino children are born out of wedlock.
27. Many traditional household decisions are made solely by women.

28. Children are raised using strict, formal socializing methods.

29. It is common for couples to be engaged for years before getting married.

30. In naming a child, the mother's surname is often designated as the child's middle name.

*Assessment Answers: 1. True; 2. False; 3. True; 4. False; 5. False; 6. False; 7. True; 8. False; 9. True; 10. False; 11. True; 12. False; 13. False; 14. True; 15. False; 16. True; 17. True; 18. False; 19. True; 20. False; 21. True; 22. False; 23. False; 24. False; 25. False; 26. False; 27. True; 28. False; 29. True; 30. True*