

THE PHILIPPINES

(Capital: Quezon City)

Location:

The group of islands lies in the Malay Archipelago. Borneo lies to the Southwest and Formosa less than 100 miles to the north.

Composition:

There are 7,107 islands and islet of which only 2,773 are named.

Major Island Divisions:

1. Luzon
2. Visayas (island group)
3. Mindanao

Climate:

The best season of the year is between November and March. There are two seasons, dry and rainy. Rainy season is from June to November, but this is interspersed with pleasant weather.

Earliest Settlers:

The country was peopled through migrations from Southeast Asia in 3rd century B.C., from what is now Indonesia and Malaya.

Population:

Estimated at 33,000,000. The rate of increase is 3.4% annually. Over half of the population live in Luzon.

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Religion:

Philippines the only Christian nation in the Orient. 82.9% of population are Catholic, 10.4% Protestant and Independent of different denominations, and 6.7% Muslims.

Language:

Pilipino is the national language. There are 85 distinct vernacular languages listed. Pilipino is spoken by 15 million Filipinos. English is understood by 13 million and often serves as the language of government, business, mass media and academic circles.

Literacy:

Literacy is high in the Philippines. By 1960 it had reached 72% of the nationwide population 10 years of age and above.

Educational enrollment increased markedly since World War II. During the 1963-64 academic year, almost 5 million students were in attendance at the elementary schools, 835,000 at secondary schools and 391,600 at universities and colleges.

Latest records showed school enrollment to be more than 6 million in more than 29,500 public schools and 2,107 private schools.

Government:

A republic with 56 provinces and more than 40 cities, the provinces are divided into municipalities and municipal districts which in turn are divided into barrios or villages. There are more than 28,000 barrios, 1,365 municipalities and 166 municipal districts.

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Mass Communications:

Some 130 newspapers in the Philippines (dailies and weeklies in English, Chinese and Pilipino) have a combined circulation close to 2 million. The dominant English press of Manila (7 dailies) has an estimated circulation of 425,300. The vernacular press is also centered in Manila but enjoys widespread readership in the provinces.

Radio is a foremost mass communications medium in the country. About 165 mediumwave broadcasting stations reach an estimated 19 million listeners. Approximately three million receiver sets are in operation. For every plug-in set it is estimated that there are 2 transistor sets.

Television is comparatively new compared to other mass media, though it is building in strength. A 1966 survey indicates that 33% of Greater Manila households have TV sets.

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