

The Indigenous People of Visayas

Akalanon - James, Leonard



The Akalanon people are the ethnolinguistic group who lived in the province of Aklan. They are part of the wider Bisaya ethnolinguistic group, who constitute the largest Filipino ethnolinguistic group.

Area - Akalanon form the majority in the province of Aklan in Panay. They are also found in other Panay provinces such as Iloilo, Antique, and Capiz, as well as Romblon. Like the other Visayans, Akalanons have also found their way to Metro Manila, Mindanao, and even the United States.

History - The Akalanons are descendants of the Austronesian-speaking immigrants who came to the Philippines during the Iron Age. They got their name from the river Akean, which means “where there is boiling or frothing”.

Culture - Most Akalanons engage in agriculture while those in the coastal areas engage in fishing. They also make handicrafts. Music, such as courtship songs or kundiman, wedding hymns, and funeral recitals, are well-developed, as it is with dance. Historically, Akalanons practised tattooing, sometimes including henna, but abandoned the practice during the Spanish era. Recently, however, there has been a revival of it in Boracay island, which is caused primarily by its popularity with tourists.

Ati - Jullia, Empasis

Abaknon - Randell



The Abaknon are an Indigenous group in the Visayas, primarily residing on Capul Island in Northern Samar. Although they are considered a subgroup of the Waray ethnic group, the Abaknon maintain unique linguistic and cultural traits that set them apart.

Area- The Abaknon people primarily inhabit Capul Island, located in the northern part of Samar Province, in the Eastern Visayas region of the Philippines. Capul Island is situated near the San Bernardino Strait, which separates it from the island of Luzon. The island is characterized by its coastal environment, which has played a significant role in shaping the traditional livelihoods of its inhabitants. Capul Island is somewhat isolated, contributing to the preservation of the Abaknon's distinct cultural and linguistic heritage.

History- Before Spanish colonization in the 16th century, the Abaknon had established social systems and trade networks, though much of their history is undocumented. Spanish missionaries introduced Catholicism and built Capul Church, but the Abaknon retained many traditional practices. After the Philippines gained independence in 1898, the Abaknon faced economic challenges and modernization pressures while working to preserve their language and culture.

Culture- The Abaknon people practice Roman Catholicism, influenced by Spanish colonization, while also honoring ancestral spirits and nature. They wear traditional Filipino

clothing, like the baro't saya, and are skilled in weaving and basket-making. They celebrate religious feasts, such as St. Ignatius of Loyola's, with dances and feasts. Their cuisine includes rice, fish, coconut products, and root crops, with livelihoods based on fishing, farming, and hunting.

Language- They speak a unique dialect of Waray called Abaknon. It is distinctive and mostly spoken on Capul Island in Northern Samar.

Suludnon - Joel,

Waray - Gomer,