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# DAVAO CITY AFTER 41 YEARS OF EXISTENCE

By SATUR P. APOYON

Davao city, which sprang from a vast marshland, has quite gone a long way in its 41 years of existence.

This premiere city, about 90 minutes by jet south of Manila, became a chartered city on March 1, 1937 through the efforts of the late assemblyman Romualdo Quimpo.

Popularly known as the "largest city in the world area-wise" (244,000 hectares), Davao city is perched on a wide marshland which was once the battle ground between the invading Spanish force of Don Jose Oyangorin and the men of Datu Bago, Davao's legendary chieftain who repulshed the Spanish colonizers.

However, most of the marshes of the city have long dried up to give way to the march of progress indicated by commercial, industrial and residential buildings.

A random survey by the Philippines news agency showed that there are more than 30 banks and three universities

and several colleges.

Aside from being the business and educational center in southern Philippines, Davao city also plays important roles in the field of mass communication and tourism.

Of the 24 radio stations in southeastern Mindanao, 14 are based in Davao city. It has also three television stations, four local newspapers and a PNA bureau.

Aside from Zamboanga city, Davao city is also an important tourist destination in the deep south. Among its attractions are the Davao Insular hotel, Apo View hotel, Aguinaldo pearl farm and Mt. Apo.

In the field of entertainment, Davao city has long graduated from the pre-war's four-storey wooden Awad theatre to more than 10 first class cinema houses.

While Cebuano-Visayan ranks high in verbal communication, Davao city has still remains as a "babel city" for every tribe who speaks other tongues including English.