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Davao del Norte blest by mother nature with natural beauty spots

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Tourism looms as a promising industry in Davao del Norte because the province is blest by mother nature with natural beauty spots which are potential tourists' come-on.

Viewed against the backdrop of lush green coco palms that stood like sentinels on guard, Davao del Norte's pearl farm and the white beach resort in Samal Island are gorgeous places where vacationists and tourists can while away their time at leisure and play.

Pearl farm is famous for its scientifically cultured pearls. The clean white beach resort under the shadow of the languidly swaying coco leaves is really a nice place for picknickers, and where one can enjoy the magnificent vista and the cool sea breeze.

Outdoor lovers can also spend their time swimming, scuba diving, boating or water skiing in the clear blue sea under the tropical summer sky.

Another attraction in this island paradise is the floating restaurant of Aguinaldo Development Corporation (ADECOR).

The Mainit Hot Spring in Nabunturan provides vacationists with natural sauna bath. It is believed that the warm water of the spring has therapeutical value. In the near future the first geothermal plant in Mindanao will be installed in Mainit, Davao del Norte and its neighboring provinces will then be getting cheaper electricity when that project is accomplished by the Philippine National Oil Commission (PNOC).

The numerous hot springs and waterfalls found in different parts of the province are awe-inspiring sights which visitors should not fail to see since most of them are quite accessible.

Another popular allurements which Davao del Norte can offer to outsiders are its vast cavendish banana plantations which appear to the naked eye like a velvet green carpet spread by mother nature when one is riding on a plane at low altitude over Tagum Valley.

The banana processing at Tagum Development Company and at Hijo Plantation is a delight to see. Thousands of bunches of bananas, like soldiers in single file, reach the processing houses located at convenient places in the plantations by cables and here they are selected, de-handled, washed and treated before they are packed in boxes ready for export.

One's sightseeing is not complete without satisfying his or her curiosity by visiting the exotic tribal settlements located at Tibi-Tibi in Kapalong and at Maraut, Mabini, both in that province. One will certainly witness a colorful pageant in real life. The native lasses and even the old women go about their work attired in colorful costumes as was the custom of their forebears centuries ago.

There's a common saying among the residents that a visitor has not tasted real life in Davao del Norte unless he has tasted the Durian, a delicacy particularly among the natives. This tropical fruit which smells like hell but taste like heaven is called by the indigents of the province the "King of Fruits."

Lanzones, marang, rambutan — nay, nearly all kinds of the most delicious fruit trees thrive here. Davao del Norte according to the natives of the place is truly the Eden of the South.

Davao del Norte is located in the heart of Southeastern Mindanao. It has an area of 812,975 hectares and covers the greater portion of the valley of the once undivided Davao province.

The terrain consists of flat, hilly and mountainous portions. Tuganay, Liboganon, Tagum and Saug rivers, while the plain east of the gulf is drained by Kingking, Sumlog, Cubao and Hijo rivers. Agusan river has branches reaching Compostela Valley (Comval) which makes this northern part of Davao very fertile.

Owing to its geographical location, Davao del Norte has ne-

ver experienced the lash and fury typhoon. It enjoys a relatively uniform temperature of 27 o C, a minimum of 22.4 o C and a maximum of 31.5 o C. Rainfall is evenly distributed the year round.

The heterogeneity of the half a million populace accounts for the diversity of culture. Migrants from other countries, from different parts of Luzon, the Visayas and from other provinces of Mindanao flocked to Davao del Norte, motivated by the desire to improve their lots in this promising southern frontier of the country. The colorful cultural minorities like the Mansakas, Mandayas, Isamals, Dibabanonans, Subanonans, to name a few, live peacefully either in settlements or with the Christians. Since Davao del Norte is

a melting pot, practically all the languages and dialects from Aparri to Jolo are spoken in the province.

Davao del Norte is originally composed of 13 municipalities. Today, its political composition headed by appointed Gov. Gregorio Dujali has grown to 20, with the creation of Maragusan Valley into the municipality of San Mariano by President Ferdinand Marcos through Presidential Decree No. 1247 because of the clamor of residents in that far flung place.

Tagum, the capital and premiere town is admittedly the business commercial and educational center of the province.

Davao del Norte was inaugurated ten years ago on July 1, 1967 by virtue of Republic Act No. 4867, which created the three provinces of Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur and Davao Oriental out of the mother Davao province. Davao del Norte's change of name to Davao del Norte was effected by Republic Act No. 6430 in response to the wishes of the local residents.

All the early fears that Davao del Norte might not be able to financially stand on its own have been dispelled by very fruitful developments during

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the years after its creation. Today, the province can boast of an income of about P20-million annually.

Gov. Dujali, who was catapulted into the limelight when he took over the reign of the provincial government due to the irrevocable resignation of former elected Gov. Verulo C. Boiser, continues today to steer the course of the province towards progress and prosperity, with the full support of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan and the various government agencies. Its phenomenal growth is continuing at a very fast pace.

A number of development programs to achieve self-reliance and self-sufficiency in Davao del Norte was launched. The province has successfully prosecuted bold projects under the Special Infrastructure Program (SIP), a tie-up program with Davao del Norte and the Provincial Development Assistance Project (PDAP) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Davao del Norte's provincial government is currently implementing the Rural Roads Program (RRP), another joint ventures of the province and the Department of Local Government and Community Development, with several road and bridge projects already completed, while the rests are still on-going construction.

Davao del Norte is primarily an agricultural province owing to its favorable climate and fertile soil. Hundreds of thousands of hectares of arable land are devoted to varied agricultural

activities. Rice and corn are produced abundantly for these are the staple food of the people.

Banana, coconut, abaca, soybean, coffee and even sorghum are produced commercially since these produce command high prices in domestic and foreign markets.

Logging is still considered one of the major activities in the province. Big logging companies are operating in the province, among them are the Valderrama Lumber and Manufacturing Company in Compostela, Sta. Ines, Melale in Asuncion, the Sarmiento Enterprises in New Bataan and Monkayo and Desiderio Dalisay Investments in Panabo and Monkayo.

Deep in the bowels of its ma-

jestic mountains are mineral deposits like marble, gold, silver and copper. Of the country's copper ore reserve, 8.49 per cent is found in Davao del Norte.

Three mining companies, namely: Sabena mining and explora-

tion operates in New Bataan; Apex mines and north Davao mines in Masara, Maco. Marble quarrying has been undertaken by the Aguinaldo Development corporation. In addition to these, there are guano deposits found in caves located within the province.