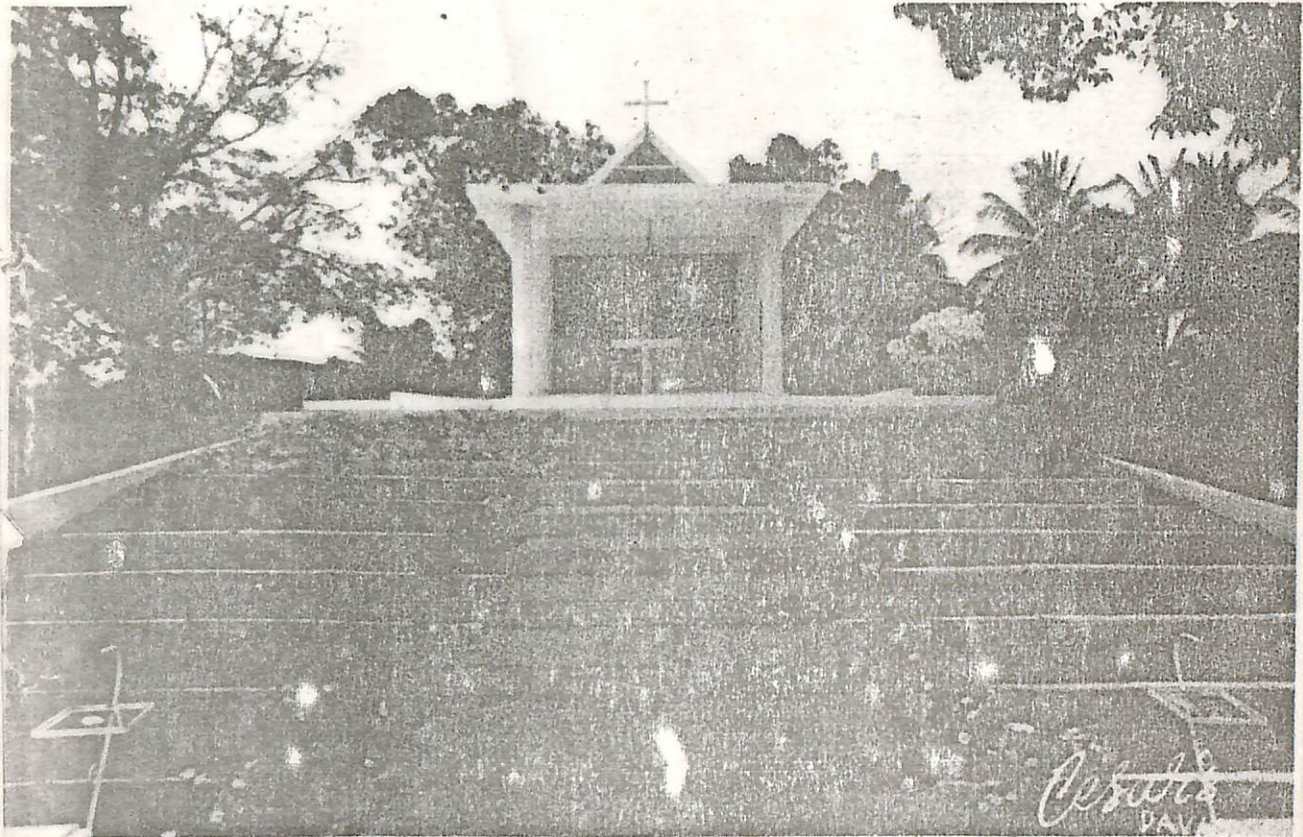


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ATENEO DE DAVAO

March 16, 1975

# Davao now emerging model city of South



THE SHRINE of the Holy Infant Jesus of Prague located on a 12-hectare lot owned by Mayor and Mrs. Luis T. Santos at Matina Heights, Davao city is fast becoming center of tourist attraction in Mindanao. The replica was brought from Prague under mysterious and hazardous way

and the image now is believed to be miraculous. Many devotees from all over Mindanao had witnessed several-miracles of the Infant Jesus. The site is located at an elevation of 2,000 feet above the sea level overlooking a panoramic view of Davao City.

Davao City today is 38 years old.

The creation of Davao into a city was among the early acts of the National Assembly under the Commonwealth Government. It was the first legislation of its kind introduced in the Assembly for the chartering of progressive municipalities and provincial capitals. The Davao City Bill No. 609 served in many ways as the forerunner or model of all the bills which set precedence for the creation of other cities in the Philippines.

The charter of Zamboanga City was patterned after the Davao

City special charter.

Bill No. 609 was officially titled Commonwealth Act No. 51, an act creating the City of Davao. Introduced by Assemblyman Romualdo C. Quimpo, the first elected representative of Davao, the bill was signed into law by President Manuel L. Quezon on October 16, 1936. Three months after, President Quezon issued proclamation No. 132, dated January 23, 1937, providing thereto the formation and inauguration of Davao City.

The then Secretary of the Interior Elpidio Quirino delivered the inaugural address as the personal

representative of the President in that inauguration.

### FIRST CITY OFFICIALS

The first officials of Davao City who were appointed by President Quezon were Santiago Artiaga, city mayor and the following city councilors: Alberto Zamora, Cesar M. Sotto, Isidro B. Bastida, Antonio Habana, Jr. Jose M. Ebro with ex-officio members City Engr. Manuel V. Zabat and City Treasurer Jose Elayda.

Among the prominent guests who witnessed the inauguration were Brigadier General Paulino Santo, Commissioner for Mindanao and Sulu Marcial K. Lag, Justice Secretary Jose Abad Santos, Japanese Consul Ichitaro Shibata, American Consul Samuel B. Frank and Chinese Consul Lim Iwa.

Today Davao City posed a big challenge to its leaders and people. Rushed by unforeseen circumstances to metropolis growth, the city faces multifarious problems that will surely test the talent, imagination, creativity of its constituents, more particularly its leaders in tackling the problems of administration and management.

Under the New Society, Davao is very lucky indeed to have a chief executive who possesses a development oriented mentality, a man with experience and vision, a city mayor who knows the problem of his city.

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Davao City

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**PILOT CITY**

Davao City today is a pilot city for others to study in the management of a city. Unlike other cities in the country today, Davao City has not fallen into corrupt and inefficient city.

Mayor Luis T. Santos was elected mayor of Davao City despite the fact that he did not belong to any party. He won the mayoralty despite the odds staked against him. Running as independent against two former re-electionist Mayor Elias Lopez of the NP and LP candidate veteran politician Ex-Mayor Carmelo Porras, his only credential was as an honest and active police chief pitted against the veteran politicians.

**REFORM PROGRAMS**

Today, the mayor's reforms have improved the operating standards at the City Hall. Because of his police background, he set his sights first on upgrading the city police. One fruit of his efforts is the regional police academy at city's

Mintal district.

The crowning victory of the mayor is the interim water system of Davao City. Today residents of Davao can now open the faucets of their homes with running potable water. Water was only a dream many years ago. Today it is a reality under Mayor Santos.

**COMPUTER CENTER OF SOUTH**

Besides the water system, Davao is proud today for its computer system, the only one of its kind outside of Camp Aguinaldo. With the establishment of the computer center, Davao has now become the computer center for Mindanao.

The present officials of Davao City are Mayor Luis T. Santos, Vice Mayor Cornelio P. Maskarino, and City Councilors, Gaudioso M. Tiongco, Vicente M. Albay, Felicidad C. Santos, Victorio S. Advincula, Dominga R. Vidanes, Bienvenido O. Amora, Benigno B. Bangoy, Pantaleon V. Pelayo, Jr., Dominador R. Zuño, Jr., Bonifacio M. Tamayo, Valentino C. Banzon, Antonio S. Castillo, Tomas A. Monteverde and Zafiro L. Respicio.

As an emerging model city of the South, Davao City has become center of business and industrial activities in the Mindanao region.

The plan of the national government to regionalize the development of the country, and the thrust to fully develop Mindanao will greatly enhance the full development of the city and the entire province. Mayor Santos, realizing and anticipating this effort of President Marcos, has also evolved a developmental program patterned and which will jibe with this direction.

As per the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) program for development of Mindanao, Davao City has been pinpointed as one of the hubs of commercial and industrial activities.

The city shares this distinction with the cities of Iligan, Zamboanga, Marawi and Cotabato.

Mayor Santos, for example, has embarked on the development of the tourist industry, knowing fully well the potentials of such trade for the city and the adjoining municipalities. One such move the mayor has initiated was the conversion of the 12-hectare Holy Infant Jesus of Prague Shrine into one of the tourist attractions in the city.