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# Demand separation of Toril

## from Davao City

Residents bat for non-inclusion in "Metro Davao"

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*Toril*

Strong ripples of opposition to, the inclusion of Toril "city" in the Metropolitan Davao Commission scheme unexpectedly developed May 31 when some 300 residents in an assembly (ordered by the top brass of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan to get the consensus of the Toril residents) urged for the immediate conversion of Toril District into a city but separate from Davao City or Metro Davao.

By CAROL O. ARGUILLAS

The Toril residents' consensus however came as an unexpected blow to the KBL as the residents bewailed its (Toril's) probable inclusion in the Metro Davao scheme (it will be remembered that official sources had said that Toril will be made into a component city of Metro Davao), citing the following as reasons:

— Davao City has done nothing to improve Toril District

— Davao City seems unaware or not cognizant of Toril's problems

— Davao City does not exactly know what is happening in Toril

— inclusion, in the Metro Davao would mean just like what is happening under the present set-up: lots of red tapes and Toril will have to be under the jurisdiction and control of a Commission;

— the Metro Commission set-up is still very vague but Toril's inclusion in it would mean Toril cannot run as a self-government

Meanwhile, Daliao Barangay Captain Lito Sucayre who spoke in behalf of his constituents said

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Demand . . .

are not opposed to the creation of a Toril City or its inclusion in the Metro Davao but presented their lone condition: that the Daliao residents should not be dislocated or transferred to Mt. Apo, Calinan or Mintal as they expressed fear they might be dislocated with the establishment of the Export Processing Zone. "Do not deprive us of our means of livelihood in Daliao," Sucayre concluded.

Toril prominent resident, Atty. Manuel Pinon likewise expressed apprehension that the conversion of Toril into a city will only be rendered moot and academic if it becomes a component city of the Metro Davao Commission.

Barangay Brigade Chairman Efren Echavia (Youth Sector) moved to do away with the Metro Davao discussion maintaining that it is still highly questionable. Echavia said tricycle drivers had kept on asking him whether the winners in the January 30 elections will still be proclaimed or whether the Special elections will still push through or not.

Dr. Faustino Acosta, Daliao Lions Club member and moderator at the Assembly urged the resi-

dents to rally behind the creation of the City of Toril and cautioned that no political bigwig was invited to lend political color to the gathering. He added that the gathering was merely to get the consensus of the Toril residents.

(SPEX) informants however said Dr. Acosta was summoned by Mr. Antonio O. Floirendo in a meeting last May 30. What Floirendo and Acosta talked about could not be ascertained as of presstime).

Director Salustiano Advincula said the Toril City should not have for its boundary the Datu Bago creek but the Talomo River site. He said this would be better in that the income of the future City of Toril will become bigger.

Mr. Joaquin Gonzaga, District Treasurer, cited that the income of Toril in 1979 was over P3 million pesos. Per his estimates, the city of Toril would amass over P 4 million income by 1980. Toril's economic growth he added is 10-15 percent per year. As such, Toril "City" can then be classified as a Class C city.

The move to convert Toril into a city started way back 1972 when the District sent a delegation to Manila to represent its sentiment to Congress.

House Bill 4921 sponsored by then Congressman Ismael Veloso would have been about to be passed but in September of '72, Martial

Law was proclaimed, thus preempting the passage.

In 1978, a move to convert Toril stirred up anew, this time, making Toril a City under the Managerial system. A committee was created in July of 1978 to study the viability of making Toril a city. To determine whether or not Toril can qualify for cityhood, the committee looked into the latest statistics on Toril's population, existing industries and annual income.

With the impending establishment of the Export Processing Zone in Daliao, it is expected that there will be a boom in Toril's income and such other taxes vis-a-vis the EPZ creation (e.g., collection of real property taxes and income taxes).