

Davao City Marks Charter Anniversary

Davao City caps the last two days of its "Araw ng Dabaw" festival, with games and ceremonies.

The celebration, which began March 10, ends on Monday.

Sponsored jointly by the city government, and the Davao Jaycees—which coordinates participation of the private sector—the week-long festivities commemorate the 33rd year of existence of this progressive southern metropolis as a chartered city.

This year's "Araw" theme is "Araw ng Dabaw," the same as in the two previous celebrations.

Activities

Anniversary activities are geared along the city's progress in agriculture and other industries, as well as in culture, sports, beautification and other aspects of the city's rise as the trade and cultural center of Mindanao.

Chosen to symbolize the unity of the people of Davao is the "Mutya ng Dabaw," who will reign over the festival.

March 16 was proclaimed as Davao City's foundation day in Executive Order No. 1 by Mayor Elias B. Lopez three years ago, barely three months

after he assumed office, in order to inculcate among the residents "a sense of pride and belonging to this city which they have chosen as the seat of their affections and aspirations."

Holiday

President Marcos has since set the day aside as a special public holiday for Davao City.

A golf tournament for ladies, and soapbox and bicycle races have been scheduled for Sunday morning.

A public band concert will be held at 5 p.m. by the Daopeel band at the Rizal Park.

This will be followed by the proclamation and coronation of the "Mutya ng Dabaw" and her princesses at the auditorium of Palaruang Lungod Dabaw.

Davao's "Mutya" will be crowned by Miss Rachel Arcones, 1969 Miss ng Dabaw, assisted by Mayor Lopez.

Araw

A diana at 4 p.m. will usher in "Araw" activities on Monday.

After thanksgiving services in all city churches, city officials will raise the flag at Rizal Park.

At 8 a.m. Mayor Lopez will plant the anniversary commemorative tree, also at the park, while

sirens blow and bells ring for one minute.

A civic military parade will be held at 1 p.m., followed by the launching of the "Araw ng Dabaw" balloon. A literary-musical program at Rizal Park will cap the afternoon activities.

The first day of the festival—"Araw ng Kalinagan"—began with a public hike around the city led personally by Mayor Lopez at 4:30 a.m.

Hike

Participants in the physical fitness hike were national and city officials, employees, teachers, students, officials and members of civic and religious organizations and the general public.

The route led from Rizal Park to Quezon Boulevard, Magsaysay Park, Magsaysay Avenue, Recto Avenue, Palma Gil Street, Palaruang Lungod Dabaw, Legaspi Street, General Luna Street, Quirino Avenue, Bangkerohan Market, Magallanes Street on to Legaspi Street, San Pedro Street and back to City Hall.

Painting, photo and essay-writing contests were held later in the morning, as well as basketball, softball, volleyball, swimming, tennis and boxing games.

Art Show

At 10 a.m., the Davao Agro-Industrial Fair was formally opened, and at 6 p.m., a one-man art show of modern paintings by Butch Soriano, art director of the Ateneo de Davao, was inaugurated at the USIS Library.

March 11 was "Araw ng Kalinisan," launched with an "Operation Linis" by the city executive.

A walkathon, a band concert, an ikabana film

showing and an amateur singing contest were featured during the day.

"An Evening of Plays" at the city park starting at 7 p.m., highlighted "Araw ng Kalinagan" on Thursday, the third day. Two one-act plays were presented by the Davao City High School and

the Davao Historical Society. The plays were preceded by a concert by the University of Mindanao band at the park.

On Friday, "Araw ng Kabataan," saw the oath-taking and installation of youth city officials at City Hall by Mayor Lopez.

Mayor Elias Lopez

'Architect' Of Davao City

By L. M. DELA SENA
thority.

Meet Elias B. Lopez, the architect of a city.

Mayor of Davao, the "world's largest city area-wise" Lopez's single obsession is to "place all things in order now that I have the opportunity to render public service to the people."

After one year and a half, he is well on the way to achieving his goal. What has Mayor Lopez accomplished?

Projects

He has not only involved the citizenry of Davao in the city's beautification projects; he has actually made them participate in the administration of local government.

He has "given comfort" to the public by removing sidewalk vendors, widening all metropolitan streets and by implementing orderly vehicular traffic.

He was able to acquire for the city the Davao Metropolitan Waterworks System which had been under the administration of the National Waterworks and Sewerage Au-

Expansion

(This feat encouraged him further to secure a P85 million guaranty from the Development Bank of the Philippines for the expansion and completion of the city waterwork system.)

He set up school buildings in all the city's barrios, built roads in the rural areas and asphalted and cemented all city streets.

He has relocated a big number of squatters from public and private lands.

All these things he was able to do only 18 months.

Objectives

But Lopez's task is far from finished.

The mayor's objectives extend beyond physical improvement of the city; it is after the city's social and economic redevelopment.

"I want to see a Davao I can be very proud of," Lopez said.

A natural leader, Mayor (Continued on Page 4)

Message

A city without an identity is like a man without a soul. That is why we endeavor to make this our beloved city not only the center of our material aspirations but also the seat of our affections.

But we cannot achieve this goal unless we join hands and work together.

The celebration of the 33rd anniversary of the City of Davao, more than anything else, can demonstrate this unity that we desire and the cooperation that we seek.

But a community cannot aspire for greater progress unless and until its people and its leaders grasp the factors for development and harness the human and material resources for the common good.

Let this day therefore remind all of us that we can transform our dreams into reality and our hopes to fulfillment only if we work together as one people, using our own ingenuity, our own strength and our own will to achieve the goals we have set.

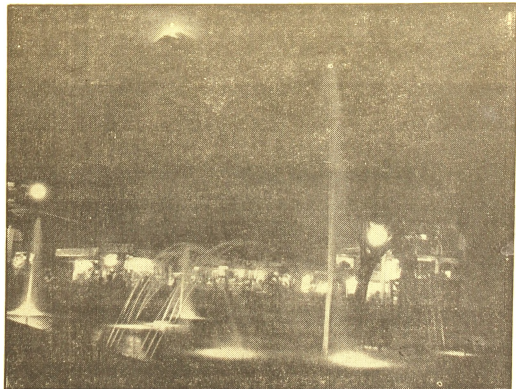
This can only be possible if our citizenry shall truly involve themselves in our collective efforts and total commitment to the tasks of community and nation-building.

On this auspicious occasion, let me reiterate my faith and confidence in the capacity of our people to rise equal to the challenge facing us today as we strive to attain progress and prosperity for all.

(Sgd.) ELIAS B. LOPEZ

Mayor

Davao City



The dancing fountains in front of the Davao City Hall.