**Baganga**

The name Baganga could have originated from the word ”banga-nga,” a thorny bush with plum-like fruits that were then abundant in the area when the first group of Spanish colonizers set foot in the village. The more popular version however asserts that Baganga was derived from the word “Baga-ngan,” the old name of the big river that traverses the central part of the town where early settlers dwelled.

The making of the town of Baganga is a story of the early missionaries’ efforts in Christianizing the aboriginal inhabitants of the area. However, it officially became a municipality only on October 29, 1903 through Organic Act No. 21. The first town executive was Juan Nazareno, who was also the Mayor of Mati then, and served the municipality for almost thirty years (1839-1868). A total of 27 town executives has since then served Baganga.

 Now classified as a 1st class municipality with estimated annual income of Php 100,000,000.00, Baganga is the top coconut producing municipality of Davao Oriental. Most of its residents depend on copra for their main source of income. Way back in the early 50s, when the logging industry was at its peak, Baganga, as host of several logging companies, was at the forefront of economic development in the province.