**Cateel**

Cateel was once part of the Caraga Province that was composed of four encomiendas during the Spanish period namely: Encomienda de Bislig where Cateel then belonged, Encomiendas de Surigao, Butuan and Tandag.

In 1582, the Spaniards partly explored the coast of Cateel. Landing at the mouth of the river they called it Rio de Cateel or Cateel, after they found some Mandaya (natives) splitting rattan vine. Cateel is a kind of rattan that abounds in the place.

Cateel has a long and varied history. The Spaniards took the town in 1614 and lost it to the Americans in 1900. It became a regular Municipality during the American regime by virtue of Organic Act No. 21 passed by the Legislative Council of the Moro Province on October 29, 1903.