**Mati**

The term “Mati” is said to have originated from a native word “maa-ti”, which means “dries up quickly”. It was referring to a creek located in the heart of the town which was known to dry up easily even after a heavy rain. “Mati” was later associated with the entire town, not merely with the creek.

Mati as a community settlement was recorded to have been founded in 1861 by two intrepid and strong political leaders: Prudencio Garcia and Juan Nazareno who came from the east coast where they are also acknowledged as the builders of Baganga and Cateel.

Originally peopled by the Mandaya and Kalagan, Mati expanded due to migration. A very familiar name among the settlers is Don Luis Rabat who was known to be the first head of the politico-military established in this part of Mindanao.

The settlement of Mati became a regular Municipality together with Davao, Cateel, Baganga, and Caraga on October 29, 1903 by virtue of Act. No.21 of the Organic Law. Sixty years later it became the capital town of Davao Oriental. Its first appointed Mayor was Francisco Rojas and Mr. Patricio Cunanan was the first Mayor to be elected in 1923. On March 24, 2007, R.A. 9408 made Mati a city with 26 barangays. This was ratified thru a plebiscite on June 18, 2007