

## **THE NEED FOR WATER AT MARILOG DISTRICT: AN INITIAL ASSESSMENT**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Davao City Water District (DCWD) is the main provider of potable water in Davao City, but half of the population is not within its reach including Marilog District. The purpose of this study is to assess and manage water resources holistically, covering rural areas. Water supply has not kept up with population growth, and many water utilities face financial difficulties due to low rates and small systems. Water supply problems include institutional fragmentation, weak sector planning, poor performance, low investment, limited restrictions, and inadequate support.

Based on the findings, Marilog District is rich in water supply, but there are still difficulties in sourcing it from springs to the community. There is an ongoing water piping project in the area and most of the residents are positive about the result. For the record, the water piping project was primarily initiated by the barangay officials. Furthermore, the findings of this study recommend a continuous exploration and development of additional groundwater and new surface water sources in the area.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

About half of the population of Davao City is not within the reach of the water supply service of Davao City Water District (DCWD), the main provider of potable water in Davao City, and one of the affected districts is Marilog (Cortez, (2020); Panes and Suizo (2019). About Asia Development Bank, (2013) there is rapid population growth, increasing food production demands, pollution, excessive and inefficient water use, and climate change, and residents are now experiencing difficulty in the water demand. To ensure adequate water availability in the future, the city, together with the barangay officials must continuously study, report, and improve the existing water supplies and water sources. According to the study of Batisse M. (2000), the challenge is to assess and manage water resources comprehensively, covering urban and rural areas holistically. In recent decades, water supply has not kept up with population growth. Jackson, et al (2001)

mentioned that many water utilities face financial difficulties because their rates are too low to cover their costs and their systems are too small to operate efficiently. Water supply problems include institutional fragmentation, weak sector planning, poor performance, low investment, limited restrictions, and inadequate support for poor urban communities and rural water utilities.

### **2. METHODS**

The researcher utilized a qualitative method in assessing the need for water in Marilog District. The participants of this study are the residents of Marilog District, Davao City whose main sources of livelihood are agriculture and aquaculture. A random sampling technique was also used to select respondents. An adopted questionnaire by Jennybell Cha was likewise utilized to conduct this study. The interview recording will also undergo transcription.

### **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

Based on the interview conducted with a random resident in the area, the Marilog district is rich in water supply. Likewise, Davao City's tap water is internationally tested to be the best quality of clean and safe water in the world (Tacio, 2014). Despite its commendation, there were still difficulties in sourcing these resources from springs to the community and there are even residents that don't have water supply. Currently, there is a commutative remark about the increase in the difficulty of water supply in the Marilog District. The business was also affected by these difficulties and even had trouble fostering in these areas.

On According to the interview of a barangay official, there is an ongoing installation of a water piping project in the area and most of the residents of Marilog District are knowledgeable about the project. Furthermore, the residents are currently somehow satisfied with the current action of the barangay officials and the city government of Davao City towards the growing problem in the above-mentioned barangay. Furthermore, Councilor Ungab passed a resolution requesting DCWD and DPWH to install potable water sources in Marilog District (Cortez, 2020). Thus, this study would like to recommend a continuous exploration and develop additional groundwater and new surface water sources in the said area.

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