

Davao City

Philippines' largest city, located in the southeastern part of Mindanao, Philippines

current population:
around 1.77 million in 2020,
with about 91.8% residing
in urban barangays

(3) congressional districts
(11) administrative districts
(182) barangay

An aerial photograph of a densely packed urban area, likely a slum, showing a grid of streets and numerous small buildings with colorful corrugated metal roofs. A central road runs vertically through the middle of the image, with several vehicles visible. The buildings are tightly packed, and the overall appearance is one of high population density.

S.I.R. Matina

Slum Improvement Resettlement

- Originally a mangrove-covered wetland with soft, flood-prone soil.



In 1977, the national government pushed for ***slum improvement*** as a *national housing policy*.

A maternity clinic operating within a supposed residential area, illustrating the emergence of commercial establishments in spaces originally intended for housing.



A supposed residential area now serving mixed purposes – featuring a boarding house, a school supplies and printing shop, and an electrical repair shop – highlighting the gradual shift from purely residential use to small-scale commercial activity.



Main Problem: Unauthorized Commercial Activities in a Residential Zone

This shift has caused **zoning violations**, **lack of permits**, and blurred lines between home and work life.

Residents prioritize income over compliance or safety. The situation highlights the tension between government policy and residents' practical needs, compounded by **legal uncertainties about land ownership.**