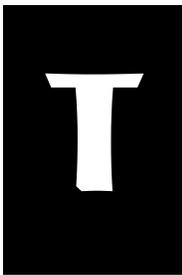


# *Chapter 4*

## ***SOCIOPOLITICAL SETTING***



he sociopolitical setting in the Malalag Bay Area (MBA) is presented in this section. The political and administrative boundaries and demography of each municipality comprising the MBA as well as the health and infrastructure or support systems available in the MBA are discussed.

### **POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARIES**

The five municipalities of the MBA are composed of 100 *barangays* of which 21 are coastal. The municipality of Hagonoy is composed of 21 *barangays*; Malalag, 15; Padada, 17; Sta. Maria, 22; and Sulop, 25. Figure 4.1 shows the MBA municipalities.

Davao del Sur has two congressional districts with Padada and Hagonoy located in District I and Malalag, Sulop, and Sta. Maria in District II. Each district is represented by a Congressman.

The MBA is also under the political supervision of the provincial government headed by the governor. The seat of the provincial government, however, is located in Digos.

The municipality of Padada was created by virtue of Executive Order No. 236 issued by President Elpidio Quirino on 1 July 1949. It is bounded on the north by the municipality of Hagonoy, on the east by Davao Gulf, on the south by the municipality of Sulop, and on the west by the municipality of Kiblawan.



**Figure 4.1. The MBA municipalities.**

On 28 May 1953, the municipalities of Hagonoy and Malalag were created from a portion of the municipality of Padada by virtue of Executive Order No. 596 issued by President Elpidio Quirino. Hagonoy is bounded on the north by Digos, on the south by Padada, on the east by Davao Gulf, and on the west by Matanao. The municipality of Malalag comprises the southern part of Padada. It is bounded on the north by Padada, on the east by Davao Gulf, on the south by the municipality of Sta. Maria, and on the west by the province of South Cotabato.

The municipality of Sulop became an independent municipality from Padada by virtue of Executive Order No. 295 issued by President Carlos P. Garcia. It is bounded on the north by Padada, on the east by Davao Gulf, on the south by the municipality of Malalag, and on the west by the municipality of Kiblawan.

The municipality of Sta. Maria was separated from the municipality of Malalag through Republic Act No. 4743 as issued by the Philippine Congress. It is bounded on the north by the municipality of Malalag, on the east by Davao Gulf, on the south by Malita, and on the west by the province of South Cotabato.

Each municipality is under the political supervision of the municipal mayor assisted by the *barangay* captain of each *barangay*.

## DEMOGRAPHY

### Population Size, Density, Distribution, and Growth Rate

In 1995, the MBA had a total population of 162,756 and a one percent growth rate. Among the five municipalities, Malalag registered the highest growth rate (two percent) while Sta. Maria had the lowest growth rate (less than one percent).

In 1995, the MBA had a population density of 230 persons per km<sup>2</sup>. The municipality of Padada was densely populated with a population density of 497. Next came the municipalities of Hagonoy, Sta. Maria, and Sulop with a density of 358, 205, and 167, respectively. The municipality of Malalag was the least densely populated area with a population density of 165 persons per km<sup>2</sup>.

The total population in the 21 coastal *barangays* was 36,400 (PPDO 1996) with 7,346 located in Hagonoy; 8,590 in Malalag; 4,279 in Padada; 15,691 in Sta. Maria; and 494 in Sulop. Table 4.1 shows the population size, density, and growth rate per municipality in the MBA.

**Table 4.1. Population size, density, and growth rate of the MBA.**

| Municipality | Population     | % Growth rate | Population density (persons/km <sup>2</sup> ) |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|---|
| Hagonoy      | 41,752         | 1.37          | 358.00  |
| Malalag      | 30,733         | 2.1           | 165.12  |
| Padada       | 22,384         | 1.24          | 497.10  |
| Sta. Maria   | 41,919         | 0.92          | 204.70  |
| Sulop        | 25,968         | 1.16          | 167.25  |
| <b>MBA</b>   | <b>162,756</b> | <b>1.36</b>   | <b>230.00</b>                                 |

Source: PPDO (1996).

### Households

In 1995, the MBA had a total population of 162,756 comprised of 32,235 households with an average household size of five persons (PPDO 1996). Hagonoy had the highest number of households (8,359), followed by Sta. Maria (8,060), Malalag (6,059), and Sulop (5,251). Padada had the least number of households (4,506).

### Age and Gender Composition

In 1995, the age group of 5 to 9 years had the highest population of 22,851 or 14 percent of the whole population of the MBA. Next was the age range of 10 to 14 years with 20,307 or 12.48 percent of the MBA total population. The smallest percentage of the population belonged to the age bracket of 85 years old and over with only 255 persons. The productive age (15-64 years old) was 91,862 or 56 percent of the whole population.

The MBA's male:female ratio is 104 with Malalag having the highest male:female ratio of 106 while Padada has the lowest male:female ratio of 101.

### Urban and Rural Distribution

In 1990, the MBA had an urban population of 36,148 and a rural population of 116,166 (Table 4.2). Hagonoy had the largest urban population of 12,502 while Malalag had the lowest with 3,860. On the other hand, the municipality of Sta. Maria had the largest rural population with 34,090 while Padada had the lowest with 12,794.

### Education

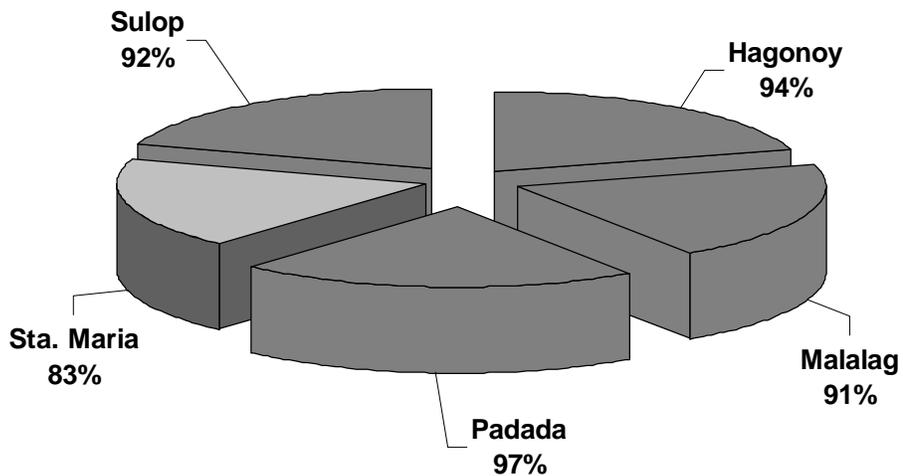
Based on the 1994 MBA-PAIC Profile, the MBA posted a literacy rate of 91 percent. The municipality of Padada had the highest literacy rate of 97 percent while Sta. Maria had the lowest literacy rate of 83 percent (Figure 4.2).

**Table 4.2. Urban and rural population in the MBA.**

| Municipality | Total population | Urban         | % Urban population | Rural          | % Rural population |
|--------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Hagonoy      | 39,001           | 12,502        | 32.00              | 26,499         | 68.00              |
| Malalag      | 27,709           | 3,860         | 14.00              | 23,837         | 86.00              |
| Padada       | 21,039           | 8,295         | 39.00              | 12,794         | 61.00              |
| Sta. Maria   | 40,033           | 5,943         | 15.00              | 34,090         | 85.00              |
| Sulop        | 24,494           | 5,548         | 22.00              | 18,946         | 78.00              |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>152,276</b>   | <b>36,148</b> | <b>24.00</b>       | <b>116,166</b> | <b>76.00</b>       |

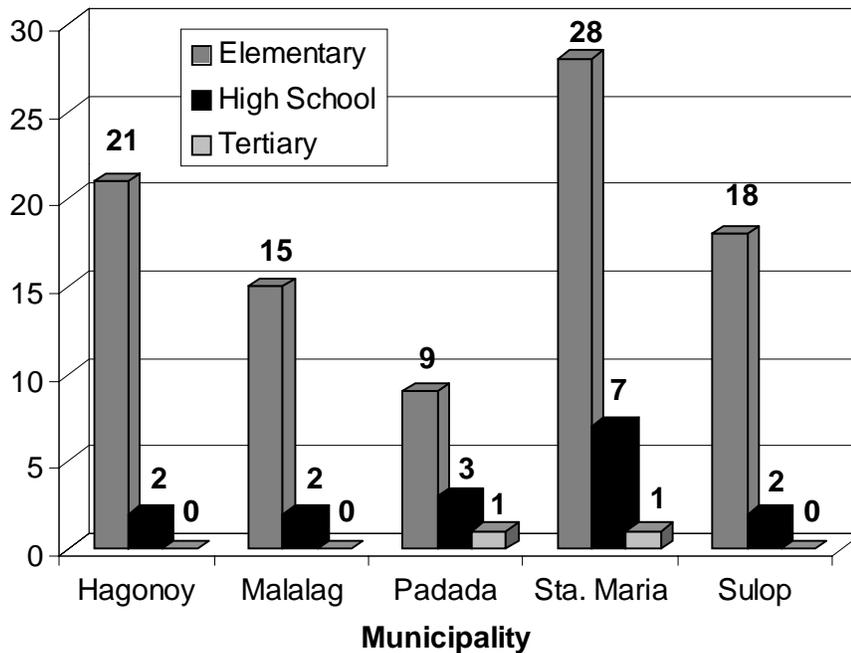
Source: PSPT (1994).

As of 1996, there were 91 elementary schools (89 public and 2 private), 16 high schools (8 public and 8 private), and 2 private tertiary schools. Figure 4.3 shows the school distribution in the MBA.



**Figure 4.2. MBA literacy rate.**

Source: PSPT (1994).



**Figure 4.3. School distribution in the MBA.**

Source: PPDO (1996).

Among the coastal inhabitants interviewed by SUML in 1997, 7 percent (15) of the respondents had no formal schooling, about 63 percent (139) finished elementary school, 27 percent (60) reached high school, 2 percent (5) reached college. Only one respondent had a college degree and another was able to obtain vocational education. The low record of collegiate level education and the higher level elementary education can be attributed to the presence of elementary schools and the absence of higher learning institutions within the learning area. There are, however, some schools that offer fisheries and fisheries-related courses in some municipalities such as Malalag. Another factor is the migration of graduates to other areas where there are opportunities for employment.

### **Labor, Employment, and Income**

As of 1993, the total labor force in the MBA was 61,419. Of the total labor force, about 56,728 (92 percent) were employed and about 4,691 (8 percent) were unemployed (Figure 4.4).

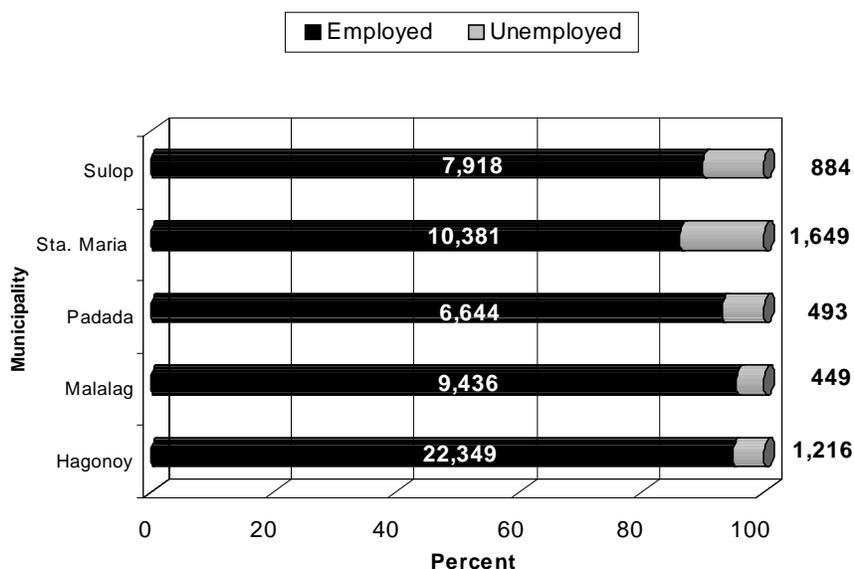
Around 20 percent of the total labor force were located in the urban areas, predominantly engaged in service and trade sectors while 80 percent were from rural areas, predominantly engaged in agriculture (coconut and banana plantation workers) and coastal fisheries. The main employment of coastal households was fishing. Methods of fishing included gill net, hook and line, bag net, fish corral, purse seine, fish pot, scoop net, and pressure gear. The use of floating fish cages has been expanding in the bay. Income is primarily derived from seasonal harvesting of milkfish fry and grouper fry. Catch volumes have been declining in recent years.

The survey conducted by SUML in 1997 revealed that the main livelihood of the coastal communities within the MBA was fishing (41.9 percent), followed by business (14.2 percent), farming and unskilled labor (10 percent), and fisheries-related income (8.4 percent). Table 4.3 shows the ranges and averages of income obtained from the different categories of livelihood in the MBA.

Business provided the largest source of income (PhP3,042/month) while fishing and fishery-related activities which were the main sources of livelihood of the people, provided only an average monthly income of PhP2,157 and PhP2,241, respectively. Very few (9.7 percent) of the coastal residents in the MBA owned agricultural land. Most residents were fishermen. However, more than half (62 percent) of the residents owned livestock or poultry, mostly for their own consumption.

### **Religion**

Based on National Statistics Office data of 1990, 90 percent of the population in the MBA are Roman Catholic. The remaining 10 percent are distributed among other



**Figure 4.4. Total labor force and employment rate in the MBA.**

Source: PSPT (1994).

**Table 4.3. Summary of the ranges and averages of income obtained from different categories of livelihood in the MBA.**

| Livelihood                               | Monthly range, PhP (min-max) | Total monthly income, PhP (average) | Annual income, PhP (average) |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Fishing                                  | 25 to 8,000                  | 2,157                               | 23,980                       |
| Fisheries-related income                 | 60 to 13,000                 | 2,241                               | 26,517                       |
| Fishing and non-fisheries-related income | 350 to 2,155                 | 953                                 | 10,573                       |
| Farming                                  | 65 to 9,500                  | 1,578                               | 11,676                       |
| Business                                 | 100 to 24,000                | 3,042                               | 35,556                       |
| Salary                                   | 150 to 6,000                 | 1,878                               | 22,532                       |
| Skilled labor                            | 200 to 3,000                 | 1,551                               | 18,005                       |
| Unskilled labor                          | 125 to 2,800                 | 945                                 | 9,929                        |
| Non-fisheries-related income             | 1,325 to 5,300               | 2,708                               | 28,617                       |
| Other sources of income                  | 15 to 1,500                  | 500                                 | 5,970                        |

Source: SUML (1997).

Note: US\$1 = PhP 26 in 1997

religious sects such as Aglipay, United Church of Christ in the Philippines, Iglesia ni Kristo, Islam, Jehovah's Witness, Seventh Day Adventist and Protestant (NSO 1990).

### **Dialects**

According to National Statistics Office data, the MBA's population, based at approximately 152,300 in 1990, is mostly Cebuano speaking (73 percent of the total population). Some 10 percent of the populace use the Tagacaolos dialect and around 17 percent use other minor dialects which include Hiligaynon, Ilocano, Waray, Bicol, Maguindanao, Aklan, Chavacano, Kinaray-a, Surigaonon, and Bilaan.

### **HEALTH, SANITATION, AND MEDICAL CARE**

All municipalities in the MBA have a government main health center. These centers are supported by 38 *barangay* health stations where 10 are located in Hagonoy, 7 in Malalag, 4 in Padada, 10 in Sta. Maria, and 7 in Sulop (PPDO 1996). There are two public hospitals operating in Padada and 20 private clinics in the MBA.

There are 64 government health personnel working in the MBA which include 5 physicians, 11 nurses, 43 midwives, and 5 dentists.

Seventy-one percent of the total households in the MBA have sanitary toilets, 13 percent have unsanitary toilets, and 16 percent have no toilets (Table 4.4). Most of the houses without toilets are found along the seashore and hard-to-reach *barangays*. Of the 5 municipalities, Hagonoy has the most number of households with sanitary toilets totaling 11,801 followed by Sta. Maria with 7,887. On the other hand, about 4,154 households have unsanitary toilets (open pit privy and Antipolo type) while 5,267 houses are without toilets.

### **SETTLEMENTS**

In 1990, the MBA had a total of 29,698 housing units of which 97 percent were occupied and the remaining 3 percent were vacant (Figure 4.5). This resulted in a ratio of 1 percent household per occupied housing unit.

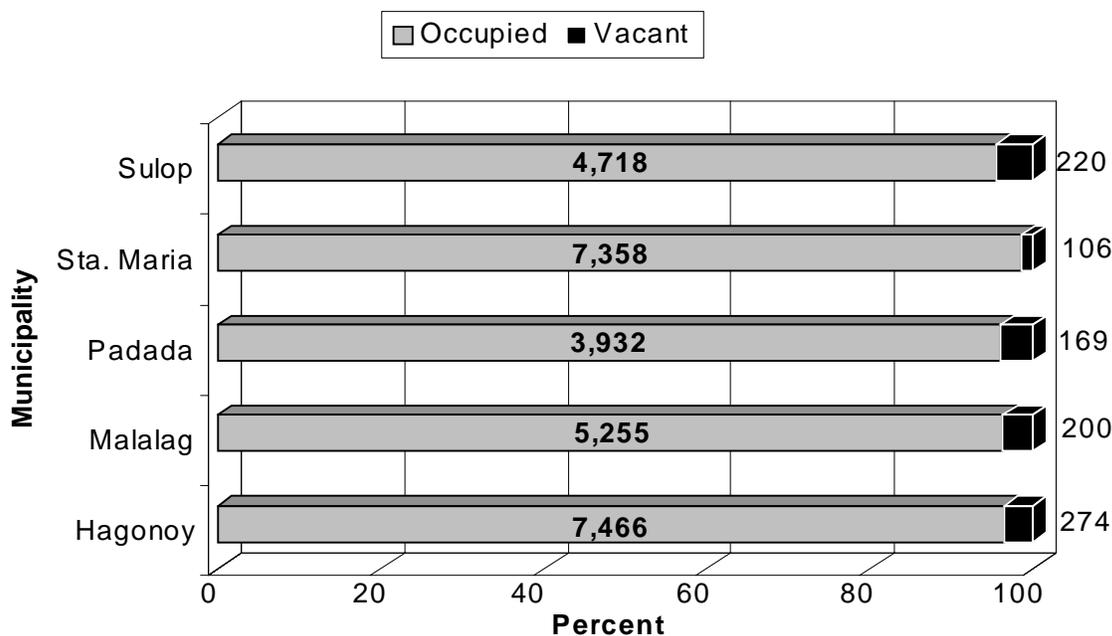
Of the total occupied housing units, a large proportion was built of *cogon/nipa* for roofing (35 percent). Other roof construction materials were galvanized iron/aluminum (0.3 percent), and asbestos (0.01 percent).

Based on the construction materials of the outer walls, 35 percent of the total occupied housing units used light materials (bamboo, *sawali*, *cogon*, or *nipa*), 50 percent used wood, and 2 percent used salvage or other construction materials. There were also occupied housing units without walls.

**Table 4.4. Excrete disposal facilities by municipality in the MBA.**

| Municipality     | Household     | Sanitary toilets   |                      |                    | Unsanitary toilets          | With out toilets |
|------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
|                  |               | Flush/septic tanks | Water sealed toilets | Sanitary pit privy | Open pit privy and Antipolo |                  |
| Hagonoy          | 8,541         | 19                 | 4,958                | 6,824              | 387                         | 915              |
| Malalag          | 6,224         | 15                 | 1,600                | 2,787              | 1,632                       | 1,326            |
| Padada           | 4,608         | 64                 | 2,381                | 3,417              | 368                         | 593              |
| Sta. Maria       | 8,201         | 20                 | 3,216                | 4,651              | 1,570                       | 1,114            |
| Sulop            | 5,364         | 58                 | 2,337                | 3,628              | 197                         | 1,319            |
| <b>MBA</b>       | <b>32,938</b> | <b>176</b>         | <b>14,492</b>        | <b>21,307</b>      | <b>4,154</b>                | <b>5,267</b>     |
| <b>Total (%)</b> |               | <b>5</b>           | <b>44</b>            | <b>65</b>          | <b>13</b>                   | <b>16</b>        |

Source: PPDO (1996).



**Figure 4.5. Housing units by municipality in the MBA.**

Source: PPDO (1996).

With regard to the tenurial status of the housing unit, of the 26,903 households, 23,531 (87 percent) own their housing units, 877 (3 percent) rent their house, and the rest occupy the houses for free with or without the consent of owners.

Among those who own their housing units, 24,798 of the households purchased their houses from their own financial resources, 176 households were assisted through loans from Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Home Development Mutual Fund (PAG-IBIG), Social Security System (SSS), Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), and other government lending institutions, and 19 units were financed by private banks and private individuals (Table 4.5).

**Table 4.5. Sources of household construction financing in the MBA.**

| Sources of financing                                      | No. of households |         |        |            |       |        |
|---|-------------------|---------|--------|------------|-------|--------|
|   | Hagonoy           | Malalag | Padada | Sta. Maria | Sulop | MBA    |
| Purchased/constructed own house                           | 6,178             | 4,608   | 3,105  | 6,797      | 4,110 | 24,798 |
| Own resources/interest free loans from relatives/ friends | 5,888             | 4,530   | 8,912  | 6,675      | 4,044 | 30,069 |
| Government assistance (PAG-IBIG, GSIS, SSS, DBP, etc.)    | 105               | 9       | 47     | 7          | 8     | 176    |
| Private banks/foundation/ cooperatives                    | 12                | -       | -      | 7          | -     | 19     |
| Employer assistance                                       | 93                | -       | 9      | 20         | 21    | 143    |
| Private   | 19                | 60      | 115    | 61         | 21    | 276    |
| Others  | 56                | 9       | 9      | 20         | 12    | 106    |

Source: PPDO (1996).

The provincial government has also been implementing the Barangay Site Development Project (BSDP) which was originally conceptualized to answer the need of the indigenous people to acquire their own house. Later, the project was expanded to include the improvement of the economic condition of the beneficiaries and was no longer limited to the indigenous people. The project now gives indigent *barangay* residents the opportunity to fulfill their long-time wish to acquire residential lots and *barangay* sites, administration for their health center, *barangay* hall, day care center, vegetable gardening area, tree park area, basketball court, and market place which they can call their own. The objective of the BSDP is to assist the *barangay* in the acquisition of land for *barangay* site at minimal cost. Under the project, the province will shoulder 50 percent of the total cost, 30 percent from the municipality, and 20 percent from the *barangay*.

Most of the houses (73 percent) in the coastal areas of the learning area are made of light materials. The rest of the houses are a combination of semi-permanent materials such as *nipa* huts (23 percent) and permanent materials like concrete (4 percent).

In terms of ownership, 86 percent of the coastal population own their houses while the rest either rent or share dwellings with relatives. However, only 41 percent own residential lots.

#### **ROADS, TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, AND OTHER RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE OR SUPPORT SYSTEMS**

##### **Roads and Bridges**

The MBA's municipal and *barangay* road networks measure some 80 km and 370 km, respectively. Majority of the roads in the MBA are gravel surfaced except for town centers which are mostly concrete. The longest national road in the province is the Malalag-Malita-Jose Abad Santos road (195 km). Of this, 132 km are gravel and the rest asphalt.

As of 1996, bridges along the MBA national road had a total length of 198 meters (m) stretched along Balutakay (16 m), Padada (82 m), Malalag (24 m), Culibao (27 m), Cumasi (22 m), and Basiawan (27 m).

##### **Transportation**

Land vehicles in the MBA include cars, jeepneys, buses, tricycles, PUBs, and trucks. In the coastal communities, the most common means of transportation are jeepneys and tricycles.

The MBA towns with transport terminals are Hagonoy, Padada, Sulop, Malalag, and Sta. Maria. Digos has one centralized bus terminal.

The MBA has a wharf located at Baybay, Malalag and is currently serving as a loading terminal for molasses. However, the wharf access is too shallow for commercial vessels and should be extended by 100 to 150 m into the bay with T-terminal to accommodate two ships in deeper water.

##### **Communication**

The MBA has two government postal offices located in the municipalities of Digos and Hagonoy. Private companies such as Aboitiz, LBC Express Inc., and JRS Express likewise offer mail services but only cater to large towns and cities.

*Most of the houses (73 percent) in the coastal areas of the learning area are made of light materials.*

Although all MBA municipalities have existing telegram stations, only Malalag and Sta. Maria have a telegraphic transfer office. Only one radio station operates in the MBA. It is located in Padada and operates at a very low frequency of 500 kHz.

There are two telephone companies operating in the MBA. PILTEL in Digos has a 2,500 capacity, 2,486 subscribers and 46,320 expansion programs while MABASCO in Malalag has 200 lines or capacity with 101 subscribers.

### **Irrigation**

The Kibuaya mini dam (70 m long) in Hagonoy and the Padada mini dam (12 m long) in Padada are the only two existing mini dams in the MBA. Hagonoy has a national irrigation system covering 2,629 ha while the communal irrigation systems in Sta. Maria and Malalag cover only 60 ha and 50 ha, respectively.

### **Shore Protection Structure**

Seawalls have been constructed along the municipal shorelines to prevent encroachment by the sea into lands that have become the foundation of residential houses and roads. Five shore protection structures with a total length of 479 m were constructed along the coastal municipalities in the MBA. These are Bagumbayan Seawall (130 m), Baybay Seawall (92 m), Piape Seawall (92 m), Padada Seawall (90 m), and Leling Seawall (75 m).

### **Power Supply**

The power needs of the MBA are served by the Davao del Sur Electric Cooperative. However, approximately half of the *barangays* in the MBA are electrified except for Padada where all *barangays* are electrified.

### **Water Supply**

There are three water supply systems in the MBA. These are Level I, which utilizes artesian wells, deepwells, and shallow wells; Level II, which includes developed springs with communal fauceting; and Level III, which includes developed springs with individual household connection (Table 4.6).

In 1996, 69 percent of the total households in the MBA had potable water supply facilities. Level I serves 86 percent, Level II serves 5 percent, and Level III serves 9 percent. Water sources of households without potable water supply facilities include deepwells, rain water, and rivers. In the MBA, Hagonoy has the highest portion of population with potable water supply facilities at 78 percent while Sulop has the lowest at 52 percent.

Table 4.6. Access to potable water facilities by municipality in the MBA.

| Municipality | No. of households | No. of households with access to potable water facilities |              |              |               |           | No. of households without access to potable water facilities |                              |              |           |
|--------------|-------------------|---|--------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|--|------------------------------|--------------|-----------|
|              |                   | Level 1   | Level 2      | Level 3      | Total         | Percent   | Shallow-wells and springs                                    | Open dug wells, rivers, etc. | Total        | %         |
| Hagonoy      | 7,974             | 5773  | 238          | 190          | 6201          | 78        | 1733   | 40                           | 1773         | 22        |
| Malalag      | 5,638             | 3086  | 165          | 290          | 3541          | 63        | 2,114  | 83                           | 2097         | 37        |
| Padada       | 4,296             | 2293  | 180          | 395          | 2868          | 67        | 928  | 500                          | 1,428        | 33        |
| Sta. Maria   | 7,228             | 4079  | 432          | 950          | 5,461         | 76        | 1738   | 29                           | 1767         | 24        |
| Sulop        | 5,048             | 2541  | 82           | 0            | 2623          | 52        | 1611   | 814                          | 2,425        | 48        |
| <b>MBA</b>   | <b>30,184</b>     | <b>17,772</b>   | <b>1,097</b> | <b>1,825</b> | <b>20,694</b> | <b>69</b> | <b>8,129</b>   | <b>1,466</b>                 | <b>9,490</b> | <b>31</b> |

Source: PPDO (1996).

### Waste Disposal

The MBA has 17 solid waste collection facilities consisting of 4 jeeps or dumptrucks and 13 wheel barrow/carts. Almost all households dispose of their solid waste through burying and compost pit (13,005), burning (8,024), and open dumping (9,731). On the other hand, about 15,353 households use blind drainages in disposing of their liquid wastes, 203 households use septic tanks, while the rest throw their liquid waste anywhere and in open canals. Table 4.7 shows the solid and liquid waste disposal facilities in the MBA.

Table 4.7. Solid and liquid waste disposal facilities by municipality and by number of households in the MBA.

| Municipality | No. of households | Solid waste collection   |                            | Solid waste disposal |              |              | Liquid waste disposal |                 |              |                      |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------------|
|              |                   | No. of dump trucks/ jeep | No. of wheel barrow/ carts | Burying & composting | Burning      | Open dumping | Can boxes             | Blind drainages | Septic tanks | Anywhere open canals |
| Hagonoy      | 8,126             | 1                        | 2                          | 3,642                | 2,335        | 2,149        | 187                   | 5,252           | 3            | 2,871                |
| Malalag      | 5,745             | 1                        | 2                          | 1,593                | 2,396        | 1,756        | 138                   | 1,534           | 24           | 4,187                |
| Padada       | 4,378             | 1                        | 4                          | 2,074                | 1,557        | 747          | 378                   | 3,153           | 162          | 1,063                |
| Sta. Maria   | 7,365             | 1                        | 3                          | 3,708                | 310          | 3,349        | 746                   | 3,252           | 14           | 4,099                |
| Sulop        | 5,144             | --                       | 2                          | 1,988                | 1,426        | 1,730        | 238                   | 2,162           | --           | 2,982                |
| <b>MBA</b>   | <b>30,758</b>     | <b>4</b>                 | <b>13</b>                  | <b>13,005</b>        | <b>8,024</b> | <b>9,731</b> | <b>1,687</b>          | <b>15,353</b>   | <b>203</b>   | <b>15,202</b>        |
| <b>%</b>     |                   | <b>0.01</b>              | <b>0.04</b>                | <b>42.28</b>         | <b>26.09</b> | <b>31.64</b> | <b>5.48</b>           | <b>49.92</b>    | <b>0.66</b>  | <b>49.42</b>         |

**SUMMARY**

In summary, of the 162,756 residents in the MBA, about 22 percent are considered coastal dwellers who generally rely on fishing and fishery-related activities for their livelihood. The majority of the fishermen own their houses (*nipa* and *sawali*) while the rest either rent or share dwellings with relatives. There is a low record of collegiate level education among the coastal inhabitants. Solid and liquid waste facilities and management are severely lacking in most of the MBA.