

El PRESIDENTE. Los que estén en contra, digan *no*. (*Silencio*.) Aprobado.

Está en orden el Proyecto de Ley No. 1650 de la Cámara. Léase el proyecto.

CREACIÓN DE UN NUEVO MUNICIPIO EN LA PROVINCIA DE CEBÚ

El CLERK DE ACTAS, leyendo:

HOUSE BILL NO. 1650

[Introduced by Representative Gullas]

EXPLANATORY NOTES

This bill is but the reelection and crystalization of the wishes of the inhabitants of Santa Rosa, Kaubian, Pangan-an, Caojagan and Sulpa islands which are hung in the middle of the ocean midway between Cebu and Bohol and far from the mainland of Cebu and the mainland of Mactan.

The reasons behind the bill are various. GEOGRAPHICAL. The islands of Santa Rosa, Kaubian, and their neighboring and sister islands are over ten miles distant from the mainland of Opon. The wide stretch of water that separates said islands from Opon works a terrible hardship on the inhabitants of said islands. During stormy weather their lot becomes very hard indeed. There is no steamboat or even a launch that periodically comes to said islands. The barrios in said islands are almost isolated and out of from the *población* of Opon.

ECONOMICAL. The proposed municipality of Lapulapu has a sufficient number of inhabitants and extent of territory and taxable property necessary to constitute an independent municipality. It has an approximate area of 700 hectares. Its population is approximately 5,000. It has a taxable property worth ₱111,180. At present, about ₱6,000 are collected from the inhabitants of said islands as real property and personal taxes, internal revenue collections from tuba, weights and measures, cockpits, dealers, fisheries, private markets, and other municipal licenses.

NO INSULAR DEBTS. Another good reason that entitles the said islands to form themselves into an independent municipality is that the present municipality of Opon owes nothing to the Insular Government. The only debt it owes is ₱4,500 to the Province of Cebu.

FINANCIAL STANDING OF OPON. Still another strong reason that justifies the constitution of an independent municipality of those islands is found in the fact that the municipality of Opon has an annual gross income of about ₱30,000 general fund and ₱10,000 school fund. The Municipal Council of Opon indorses the idea behind this bill, by its Resolution No. 30, series 1926, of June 13, 1926.

The following is the yearly gross income of the municipality of Opon from 1911-1925:

| Year | General Fund | School Fund |
|------|--------------|------------------|
| 1911 | ₱10,536.78 | ₱3,062.81 |
| 1912 | 10,326.44 | 2,780.83 |
| 1913 | 8,550.79 | 3,154.48 |
| 1914 | 9,289.56 | 2,654.49 |
| 1915 | 10,404.50 | 3,072.39 |
| 1916 | 10,409.53 | 2,365.18 |
| 1917 | 13,774.37 | (¹) |
| 1918 | 15,521.08 | (¹) |
| 1919 | 18,204.67 | (¹) |
| 1920 | 20,021.45 | 5,631.43 |
| 1921 | 19,854.12 | 4,787.63 |
| 1922 | 21,272.61 | 8,517.47 |
| 1923 | 22,278.80 | 9,920.18 |
| 1924 | 25,475.24 | 6,517.52 |
| 1925 | 29,240.28 | 10,974.97 |

¹ Record not available.

PRESENT FACILITIES. There are two big barrios, Santa Rosa and Tiño, any one of which can be the seat or the capital of the municipality. They have the necessary men capable of taking over the administration of the affairs of the proposed municipality.

MATTER OF JUSTICE. Santa Rosa or Onáño group of islands was for time immemorial enjoying an independent existence as a municipality until 1904, when it was fused with the municipality of Opon. Cordova had likewise been

a municipality; but like Santa Rosa, was fused with the municipality of Opon. But in 1913, Cordova got back its municipal independence. Santa Rosa did not.

Cordova is right in the mainland, on the islands of Mactan, but a few kilometers from the *población* of Opon. On the other hand, a wide gulf separates Santa Rosa, and the adjacent islands from the mainland of Mactan. So Santa Rosa and her sister islands and barrios have better reasons to be reconstituted into an independent municipality. Hence, the just demands that they be given back their lost municipal independence.

(Sgd.) PAULINO GULLAS
Representative, Second District, Cebu

AN ACT TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF MUNICIPALITIES OF THE PROVINCE OF CEBU FROM FIFTY-TWO TO FIFTY-THREE BY SEPARATING FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF OPON THE ISLANDS OF SANTA ROSA, KAUBIAN, PANGAN-AN, CAOJAGAN, AND SULPA AND ORGANIZING THEM INTO AN INDEPENDENT MUNICIPALITY TO BE CALLED AS THE "MUNICIPALITY OF LAPULAPU," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Legislature assembled and by the authority of the same:

SECTION 1. The number of municipality of the Province of Cebu is hereby increased from fifty-two to fifty-three by separating from the municipality of Opon, the Islands of Santa Rosa, Kaubian, Pangan-an, Caojagan, and Sulpa together with all the barrios in the said islands, which are hereby organized as an independent municipality to be known as the "Municipality of Lapulapu," with a seat of municipal government in the barrio of Santa Rosa, Island of Santa Rosa. The Municipality of Opon shall consist of its present territory, less the territory comprised by the Islands of Santa Rosa, Kaubian, Pangan-an, Caojagan, and Sulpa.

SEC. 2. All the provisions of the Administrative Code, as amended, which are applicable to the regularly organized municipalities, shall govern the new municipality of Lapulapu.

SEC. 3. The funds and obligations as well as the properties that pertain to the municipality of Opon shall be equitably distributed between both municipalities of Opon and Lapulapu in the form and manner recommended by the Insular Auditor and approved by the Governor-General.

SEC. 4. The elected municipal officials of the newly organized municipality of Lapulapu shall be appointed, as soon as this Act shall have been approved, by the Governor-General with the consent of the Philippine Senate upon the recommendation of the Provincial Board of Cebu and shall hold office until their successors are duly elected and qualified in accordance with the Election Law.

SEC. 5. The organization of the municipality of Lapulapu shall not affect the political organization of the municipality of Opon, and its present municipal officials shall continue to hold their offices until their successors shall have duly qualified.

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect on its approval.

Approved,

El PRESIDENTE. Tiene la palabra el Comité.

Sr. GULLAS. Si no hay objeción pido que el proyecto sea aprobado.

El PRESIDENTE. ¿Puede votarse el proyecto?

La CÁMARA. Sí.

El PRESIDENTE. Léase el título del proyecto.

El CLERK DE ACTAS, leyendo:

An Act to increase the number of municipalities of the Province of Cebu from fifty-two to fifty-three by separating from the municipality of Opon the Islands of Santa Rosa, Kaubian, Pangan-an, Caojagan, and Sulpa and organizing them into an independent municipality to be called as the "Municipality of Lapulapu," and for other purposes.

El PRESIDENTE. Los que estén en favor del proyecto, digan *sí*.

La CÁMARA. Sí.

El PRESIDENTE. Los que estén en contra, digan no. (*Silencio.*) Aprobado.
Léase el Proyecto de Ley No. 625 de la Cámara.

CREACIÓN DE UN NUEVO MUNICIPIO EN LA PROVINCIA DE MASBATE

El CLERK DE ACTAS, leyendo:

HOUSE BILL NO. 625

[Introduced by Representative Marcada]

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is proposed in the attached bill to create an additional municipality in the Province of Masbate. It will be formed out of these remote barrios now belonging to the municipality of Milagros and will be called the municipality of Balud.

Said barrios are located in isolated regions about thirty kilometers from Milagros. There is no road connecting them with the población. The places lying between these barrios and Milagros are isolated and during rainy season are almost impassable. For these reasons the inhabitants of the barrios are not only deprived of a ready police protection and prompt municipal health service but also are rendered helpless to regularly transact business with the municipal government.

The establishment of the new municipality of Balud will not only secure protection to life and property in Balud and nearby barrios but will also open the way toward a rapid development of the regions in the western part of Masbate.

In view of the above reasons the enclosed bill is submitted to the House for approval.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO MARCAIDA
Representative for Masbate

AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE PROVINCE OF MASBATE, TO BE KNOWN AS THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALUD, OUT OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MILAGROS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Legislature assembled and by the authority of the same:

SECTION 1. A new municipality is hereby created in the Province of Masbate, to be called the municipality of Balud. The new municipality of Balud shall consist of the present barrios of Balud, Canomoy, Jintotolo, Jangan, Mandaon, and Pulanduta, which are hereby declared separated from the municipality of Milagros in the same province. The seat of municipal government of the new municipality shall be at Balud.

SEC. 2. The provisions of the Administrative Code and regulatory acts thereto, in so far as they are applicable to regularly organized municipality, shall apply to the Government and operation of the municipality of Balud and to the election and appointment of the officers thereof. The municipal election for the new municipality of Balud shall be held at the next general election and, until the officials elected for the said municipality shall have qualified, the present organization of the municipality of Milagros shall continue.

SEC. 3. The funds and obligations and the property of the present municipality of Milagros shall, upon the establishment of the new municipality of Balud, be distributed equitably between the two municipalities by the Insular Auditor.

SEC. 4. The Act shall take effect on its approval.

Approved,

El PRESIDENTE. Tiene la palabra el Comité.
Sr. TORRALBA. Si no hay objeción, pido que el proyecto sea aprobado.

El PRESIDENTE. ¿Puede votarse el proyecto?

La CÁMARA. Sí.

El PRESIDENTE. Léase el título del proyecto.

El CLERK DE ACTAS, leyendo:

An Act creating an additional municipality in the Province of Masbate, to be known as the municipality of Balud, out of the municipality of Milagros.

El PRESIDENTE. Los que estén en favor del proyecto, digan sí.

La CÁMARA. Sí.

El PRESIDENTE. Los que estén en contra, digan no. (*Silencio.*) Aprobado.

Está en orden el Proyecto de Ley No. 1681 de la Cámara.

CREACIÓN DE UN NUEVO MUNICIPIO EN LA PROVINCIA DE SURIGAO

El CLERK DE ACTAS, leyendo:

HOUSE BILL NO. 1681

[Introduced by Representative Ortiz]

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The purpose of the attached bill is to reestablish the former municipality of Tagana-an which has been in existence during the Spanish regime until the year 1906 when its territory was divided between the present municipalities of Surigao and Placer by the annexation of the barrio of San Jose and the sitios of Kabongbongan, Navago and Panalsalan to Surigao, and the barrios of Tagana-an, Talavera, Bamban, and Himamaug to Placer. The interest and welfare of these barrios demand that they be organized as in former times into one independent municipality. These barrios are very far from the municipalities of Surigao and Placer and the only means of communication is by sea, which is often times perilous. Due to their distance from either the municipality of Surigao or Placer the said barrios have neglected and its was rare that the same were given any amount for public works by the mother municipalities. It is for these reasons that the inhabitants of the above named barrios have always been clamoring for separation from the municipalities of Placer and Surigao and for their organization into one independent municipality in order to be able to attend properly to their own affairs and interests and to do all the improvements possible within their own territory.

The proposed municipality of Tagana-an has a population of four thousand people and counts with sufficient income to maintain and support the administration of local government. At present the municipality has a municipal building with a plaza of one hectare. In front, a concrete school building likewise with its corresponding plaza of one hectare, a municipal cemetery and a site near the bank of the river especially appropriate for a market, all of which are owned by the barrios of Tagana-an.

Approval of this bill is urgently recommended.

(Sgd.) MONTANO A. ORTIZ
Representative for Surigao

AN ACT TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF MUNICIPALITIES OF THE PROVINCE OF SURIGAO FROM SEVENTEEN TO EIGHTEEN, BY SEGREGATING FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF SURIGAO THE BARRIO OF SAN JOSE AND THE SITIOS OF KABONGBONGAN, NAVAGO, AND PANALSALAN, AND FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF PLACER, THE BARRIOS OF TAGANA-AN, TALAVERA, BAMBAN, AND HIMAMAUG, AND ORGANIZING THEM INTO AN INDEPENDENT MUNICIPALITY OF TAGANA-AN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Legislature assembled and by the authority of the same:

SECTION 1. The seventeen municipalities of the Province of Surigao as has already been established and organized shall in accordance with the provisions of this Act be increased to eighteen by separating the barrio of San Jose and the sitios of Kabongbongan, Navago, and Panalsalan from the municipality of Surigao, and the barrios of Tagana-an, Talavera, Bamban and Himamaug from the municipality of Placer, which are hereby organized as an independent municipality of "Tagana-an," with a seat of municipal government in the barrio of Pagana-an. The municipality of Su-