

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

First Regular Session
THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

House Bill No. 482



Introduced by Congressman JOSE G. SOLIS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In terms of land area and population, the Municipality of Bulan ranks highest in the Second District of Sorsogon Province. Barangay Otavi is one of the biggest of the sixty-three (63) barangays comprising the Municipality. It is located at about seven kilometers southeast from the poblacion, bounded on the North by Barangays Fabrica and Tanga, on the East by Barangay Butag, on the West by Barangay San Rafael, and on the South by Otavi Bay.

A coastal barangay, Otavi is both a fishing and an agricultural community. It has a total land area of 143,285 square hectares. Of this area, 40,000 square hectares are riceland, 100,285 square hectares are planted with coconut, banana and root crops, while the remaining 3,000 square hectares are grassland rolling hills. A portion of the land area is swampy and is ideal for fishpond development for inland fishing. The grassy rolling hill on the northern portion is an ideal site for small scale factories and is very near the national highway.

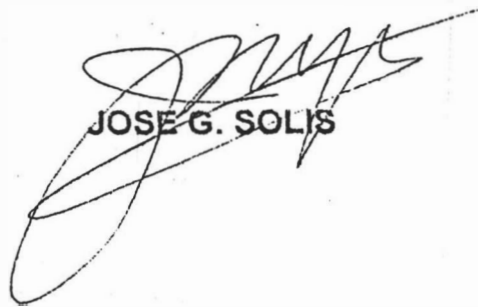
Although most of the people in this barangay are farmers and fisherfolks, they are aware about the importance of education on their children's future. They believe that it is only through education that the future of their children is assured. It is the only legacy they can bestow to their children.

Recent developments, however, hinder the residents of Barangay Otavi from sending their children to pursue secondary education. The nearest public high school from Barangay Otavi was the former Bulan Vocational High School located at the poblacion of Bulan. This school was, however, converted into a State College in 1994. After such conversion, the high school education program was phased out to concentrate on higher education programs. As a result, thousands of high school students were displaced. One of the most heavily affected is Barangay Otavi. To remedy the problem of displaced students, a new high school was established--the Bulan National High School. The problem, though, is the lack of school structures to accommodate the number of enrollees,

and facilities to aid the students in the learning process the primary reason of which is the insufficiency of funds.

The above-mentioned situation forced the administrators of Bulan National High School to adopt various strategies to solve the problem. One of the alternatives employed was to hold double sessions--First and Third Year students conduct classes in the morning while Second and Fourth Year students hold classes in the afternoon. This scheme, however, means a reduction in the number of class hours required by the Department of Education per subject.

It is in this regard that the parents pushed the officials of Barangay Otavi to seek assistance from any agency for the establishment of a high school at Barangay Otavi not only to decongest Bulan National High School but to accommodate the growing number of students of Barangay Otavi and its neighboring barangays.



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AN ACT ESTABLISHING OTAVI NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY OTAVI, MUNICIPALITY OF BULAN, PROVINCE OF SORSOGON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines assembled:

SECTION 1. There shall be established under the supervision of the Department of Education a National High School in Barangay Otavi, Municipality of Bulan, Province of Sorsogon to be known as Otavi National High School.

SECTION 2. The Department of Education shall issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 3. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.