

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. **2351**

Submitted by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture on 22 AUG 2012
Re : **House Bill No. 6484**
Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4978.
Sponsors : Representatives Salvador H. Escudero III and Alfredo "Albee" B. Benitez

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Basic Education and Culture to which was referred House Bill No. 4978 introduced by Rep. Alfredo "Albee" B. Benitez, entitled:

**"AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A SEPARATE CITY SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICE
IN THE CITY OF VICTORIAS, PROVINCE OF NEGROS
OCCIDENTAL, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT
NUMBER 8488, ENTITLED "AN ACT CONVERTING THE
MUNICIPALITY OF VICTORIAS, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, INTO A
COMPONENT CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF
VICTORIAS"**

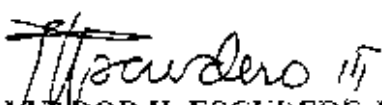
6484

has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Bill No. _____
entitled:

**"AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A SEPARATE CITY SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICE
IN THE CITY OF VICTORIAS, PROVINCE OF NEGROS
OCCIDENTAL, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 8488, ENTITLED "AN ACT CONVERTING THE
MUNICIPALITY OF VICTORIAS, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, INTO A
COMPONENT CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF
VICTORIAS"**

be approved in substitution of House Bill No. 4978 with Representatives Alfredo "Albee" B. Benitez and Salvador H. Escudero III as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,


SALVADOR H. ESCUDERO III
Chairperson
Committee on Basic Education and Culture

**THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY**

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6484**
(In substitution of House Bill No. 4978)

Introduced by Representatives Alfredo "Albee" B. Benitez and Salvador H. Escudero III

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A SEPARATE CITY SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICE IN THE
CITY OF VICTORIAS, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8488, ENTITLED "AN ACT
CONVERTING THE MUNICIPALITY OF VICTORIAS, NEGROS
OCCIDENTAL, INTO A COMPONENT CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF
VICTORIAS"

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

1 SECTION 1. There shall be incorporated after Section 46 (5) (d) of Republic Act
2 No. 8488, a new article to read as follows:

3
4 "ARTICLE VIII
5 "THE CITY SCHOOLS DIVISION

6
7 "SEC. 47. *ESTABLISHMENT OF A DIVISION OF CITY SCHOOLS.* -
8 THERE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED, UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF
9 THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, A CITY SCHOOLS DIVISION
10 OFFICE IN VICTORIAS CITY WHICH SHALL HAVE JURISDICTION
11 OVER THE SCHOOLS DISTRICTS WITHIN VICTORIAS CITY AND
12 SHALL BE HEADED BY A DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT WHO
13 MUST POSSESS THE NECESSARY QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED
14 BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

15
16 "THE STAFF COMPLEMENT FOR THE CITY SCHOOLS
17 DIVISION OFFICE OF VICTORIAS CITY SHALL ALSO POSSESS
18 THE NECESSARY QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED BY THE
19 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

20
21 "THE SALARIES OF THE SUPERVISORS, PRINCIPALS,
22 TEACHERS AND OTHER OPERATIONAL EXPENSES OF THE
23 PRIMARY, INTERMEDIATE HIGH SCHOOLS AND OTHER PUBLIC
24 SCHOOLS IN THE CITY SHALL BE BORNE BY THE NATIONAL
25 GOVERNMENT."

1
2 SEC. 2. The succeeding article and sections of Republic Act No. 8488 are hereby
3 renumbered accordingly.
4

5 SEC. 3. *Appropriations.* The Secretary of Education shall immediately include
6 in the Department's program the operationalization of the City Schools Division of
7 Victorias City, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General
8 Appropriations Act.
9

10 SEC. 4. *Implementation.* - The Secretary of Education shall issue the rules and
11 regulations that may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.
12

13 SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations,
14 rules and regulations and issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the
15 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.
16

17 SEC. 6. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
18 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
19

20 Approved.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **4978**

Introduced by REP. ALFREDO "ALBERT" B. BENITEZ

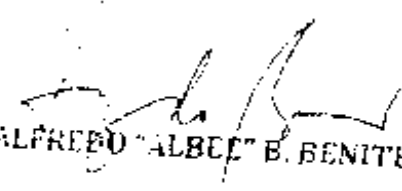
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Supreme law of the land acknowledges the significance and impact of education to the lives of every individual and to the community as a whole. As mandated under Article XIV Section 2 (1) of the 1987 Constitution the State shall: "Establish, maintain and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society".

Accordingly, this bill recognizes the role of local government in bringing quality education while serving as a channel between local communities and state education departments in the City of Victorias, Province of Negros Occidental. It seeks to institute a separate schools division office in the City of Victorias, Negros Occidental by amending Republic Act 8488.

A separate schools division for Victorias City would empower the local government to deliver and advance higher standards of education. More importantly, the enactment of this measure guarantees the realization of desired outcomes in education of Victorias City.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


ALFREDO "ALBERT" B. BENITEZ

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **4978**

Introduced by REP. ALFREDO "ALBEE" B. BENITEZ

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SEPARATE CITY SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICE IN THE CITY OF VICTORIAS, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER 8486, ENTITLED "AN ACT CONVERTING THE MUNICIPALITY OF VICTORIAS, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, INTO A COMPONENT CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF VICTORIAS"

SECTION 1. There shall be incorporated after Section 46 (5. d) of Republic Act No. 8486 a new article to read as follows

"ARTICLE VIII
THE CITY SCHOOLS DIVISION

Sec. 47. Establishment of a Division of City Schools. - There shall be established under the supervision of the Department of Education, a City Schools Division Office in Victorias City which shall have jurisdiction over the school districts within Victorias City and shall be headed by a Division Superintendent who must possess the necessary qualifications required by the Department of Education.

The staff complement for the City Schools Division Office of Victorias City shall also possess the necessary qualifications required by the Department of Education.

The salaries of the supervisors, principals, teachers and other operational expenses of the primary, intermediate high schools and other public schools in the city shall be borne by the national government."

SEC. 2. Appropriations. - The sum necessary for purpose of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriation Act.

SEC. 3. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, and issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 4. Implementation - The Secretary of Education shall issue the rules and regulations that may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 5. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

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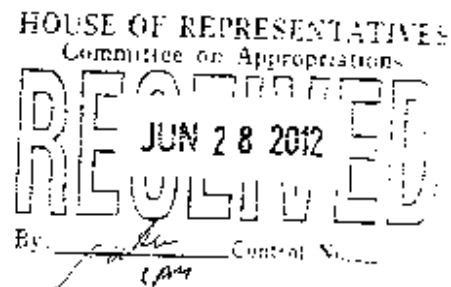
Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

28 June 2012

HON. JOSEPH EMILIO A. ABAYA
Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations



Dear Chairperson Abaya:

The Committee on Basic Education and Culture approved on 20 March 2012 the attached House Bill No. 4978, entitled:

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A SEPARATE CITY SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICE IN THE CITY OF VICTORIAS, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER 8488, ENTITLED "AN ACT CONVERTING THE MUNICIPALITY OF VICTORIAS, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, INTO A COMPONENT CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF VICTORIAS"

with Representative Alfredo B. Benitez as author thereof.

Considering that a proposed funding is provided for in Section 2 of the aforesaid bill, the Committee deemed it appropriate to refer the same to the Committee on Appropriations for comment and approval.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

SALVADOR H. ESCUDERO III
Chairperson

For the Chairperson:


MARIA JOSEFINA R. RICAFORT
Committee Secretary



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



HON. JOSEPH EMILIO A. ABAYA

*Congressman, 1st District, Cavite
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations*

July 23, 2012

HON. SALVADOR H. ESCUDERO III

*Chairperson
Committee on Basic Education & Culture*

Dear Chairperson Escudero:

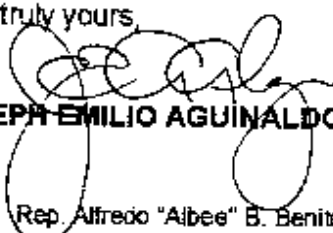
This refers to **House Bill No. 4978**, titled "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SEPARATE CITY SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICE IN THE CITY OF VICTORIAS, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER 8488, ENTITLED "AN ACT CONVERTING THE MUNICIPALITY OF VICTORIAS, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, INTO A COMPONENT CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF VICTORIAS" which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

Please be informed that the Committee recommends the approval of said house bill with the following amendment:

On Section 2, delete the entire provision and in lieu thereof substitute the following:

SEC. 2. APPROPRIATIONS. THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION SHALL IMMEDIATELY INCLUDE IN THE DEPARTMENT'S PROGRAM THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE CITY SCHOOLS DIVISION OF VICTORIAS CITY, THE FUNDING OF WHICH SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE ANNUAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT.

Very truly yours,


JOSEPH EMILIO AGUINALDO ABAYA

Cc: Rep. Alfredo "Albee" B. Benitez

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila
Fifteenth Congress
2nd Regular Session

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MINUTES OF THE 22nd MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE HELD ON 20 MAR 2012, 9:30 A.M. CONFERENCE ROOM NOS. 14 & 15, RAMON V. MITRA, JR. BLDG., HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, QUEZON CITY

=====

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Presiding Officer, Rep. Rosenda Ann Ocampo, called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL

On motion, duly seconded, the Chairperson dispensed with the calling of the roll.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

On motion duly seconded, the Presiding Officer declared as approved the minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2012, as presented.

IV. INITIAL DELIBERATION OF LOCAL BILLS

A. ON ESTABLISHMENT OF CITY SCHOOLS DIVISION

1. House Bill No. 2789 - AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DIVISION OF CITY SCHOOLS IN THE CITY OF TAGBILARAN, PROVINCE OF BOHOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, by Rep. Relampagos
2. House Bill No. 4978 - AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SEPARATE CITY SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICE IN THE CITY OF VICTORIAS, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER 8488, ENTITLED "AN ACT CONVERTING THE MUNICIPALITY OF VICTORIAS, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, INTO A COMPONENT CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF VICTORIAS, by Rep. Benítez

B. ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOLS

1. HB No. 5607 - MAINIT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, by Rep. Gullas
2. HB No. 5608 - TUNGKIL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, by Rep. Gullas
3. HB No. 5266 - INOBUAN PRIMARY SCHOOL, by Rep. Gullas
4. HB No. 5383 - TAL-UT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, by Rep. Gullas
5. HB No. 5696 - ANAKAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, by Rep. Unabia
6. HB No. 5747 - TUBURAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, by Rep. Defensor
7. HB No. 5902 - PASAY CITY NATIONAL SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL, by Calixte-Rubiano
8. HB No. 5919 - KIARA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, by Rep. Zubiri
9. HB No. 5926 - SAN NICOLAS NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, by Rep. Zubiri
10. HB No. 6001 - MANDALUYONG ADDITION HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, by Rep. N. Gonzales II
11. HB No. 6001 - ADDITION HILLS INTEGRATED SCHOOL, by Rep. N. Gonzales II

C. ON SEPARATION OF SCHOOLS

1. HB No. 5748 - BATONG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, by Rep. Agyao
2. HB No. 5749 - BATONG BULAY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, by Rep. Agyao

3. HB No. 760 - ASIBANGILAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, by Rep. Agcao
4. HB No. 785 - SILWAYAN NATIONAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, by Rep. Arburon
5. HB No. 804 - TUMOG NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL AND TRADE HIGH SCHOOL, by Rep. Bayang
6. HB No. 805 - TALEPUGO NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL AND TRADE HIGH SCHOOL, by Rep. Bayang
7. HB No. 806 - TANGLAGAN NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL AND TRADE HIGH SCHOOL, by Rep. Bayang

D. ON CONVERSION OF SCHOOLS

1. HB No. 2497 - ABONGAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, by Rep. Alvarez
2. HB No. 2500 - SANDOVAL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, by Rep. Alvarez
3. HB No. 2501 - BISTLAY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, by Rep. Alvarez
4. HB No. 3621 - BALITUCAN NATIONAL TECHNICAL AND SKILLS TRAINING HIGH SCHOOL, by Rep. Lazatin
5. HB No. 5800 - SAN ISIDRO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, by Rep. Flores
6. HB No. 5842 - WEST PROSPERIDAD NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, by Rep. Plaza
7. HB No. 5843 - ANISLAGAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, by Rep. Plaza
8. HB No. 5844 - AZPETIA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, by Rep. Plaza
9. HB No. 5845 - CECILIA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, by Rep. Plaza
10. HB No. 5911 - JUDGE JOSE DE VENECIA SR. MEMORIAL TECH-VOC. SECONDARY SCHOOL, by Rep. De Venecia
11. HB No. 5936 - ST. PETER NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, by Rep. Flores
12. HB No. 5939 - KITA-KITA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, by Rep. Violage

E. ON RENAMING OF SCHOOLS

1. HB No. 2712 - CHANGING THE NAME OF THE STA. MARIA AGRO-INDUSTRIAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF STA. MARIA, PROVINCE OF BULACAN INTO THE STA. MARIA AGRO-INDUSTRIAL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE R.A. NO. 6397, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "STA. MARIA AGRO-INDUSTRIAL HIGH SCHOOL", by Rep. Villanueva
2. HB No. 4663 - CHANGING THE NAME OF CANUMAY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY CITY OF VALENZUELA TO CANUMAY WEST NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, by Rep. Gatchalian

On omnibus motion to approve all the local school bills presented, duly seconded, the Presiding Officer declared as approved the above-listed 34 local school bills subject to the standard format set by the committee and subject also to the authors' submission of the documentary requirements to support their respective bills.

V. ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly seconded, the Presiding Officer adjourned the meeting at 9:54 a.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing minutes.

NORA EMILIA R. BA UNAWA
Supervising Legislative Staff Officer II

Noted by:

MA. JOSEFINA R. QUE-RICAFORT
Legislative Committee Secretary

Approved by:

HON. ROSENDA A. NOCAMPO
Vice-Chairperson

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }
CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES }
Third Regular Session }

H. No. 10290

REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8488

AN ACT CONVERTING THE MUNICIPALITY OF VICTORIAS,
NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, INTO A COMPONENT CITY TO
BE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF VICTORIAS

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

ARTICLE I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the
'Charter of the City of Victorias.'

SEC. 2. *The City of Victorias.* - The Municipality of Victorias in the Province of Negros Occidental is hereby converted into a component city to be known as the City of Victorias, hereinafter referred to as the City, which shall comprise of the present territory of the Municipality of Victorias, Negros Occidental. The territorial jurisdiction of the City shall be within the present metes and bounds of the Municipality of Victorias, more particularly described as follows: A parcel of land situated in the Province of Negros Occidental, Island of Negros, Philippines; bounded on the northeast along line of MBM.3, MBM.2, MBM.1, MBM.14 by the Municipality of Manapla MBM.14 to Silay, Cadiz intersection by the Municipality of Cadiz and on the south and southwest by the Municipality of Cadiz and on the south and southwest by the Municipality of E.B. Magalona traversing Quinaruyan River, MBM.11 to MBM.4 by the Municipality of E.B. Magalona on the west along line MBM.4 to MBM.5 traversing Maiogo River, containing an area of 133.92 sq. kms., more or less.

The foregoing provisions shall be without prejudice to the award or resolution by the appropriate agency or forum of whatever claim that may be due to the City, or a boundary dispute that

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support to the city mayor in carrying out measures to ensure the delivery of basic services and provision of adequate facilities which require general services expertise and technical services;

(2) Develop plans and strategies, and upon approval thereof by the city mayor, implement the same, particularly those which have to do with general services supportive of the welfare of the inhabitants of the City which the city mayor is empowered to implement and which the sangguniang panlungsod is empowered to provide;

(3) Take custody of and be accountable for all properties, real or personal, owned by the City, and those granted to it in the form of donation, reparation, assistance and counterpart of joint projects;

(4) Be in the frontline of general services-related activities, such as the possible or imminent destruction or damage to records, supplies, properties, and structure materials or debris, particularly during and in the aftermath of man-made and natural disasters and calamities;

(5) Recommend to the sangguniang panlungsod and advise the city mayor on all other matters relative to general services; and

(6) Perform such other duties and functions and exercise such other powers as provided for under Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 46. The City Agriculturist. – (a) The city agriculturist must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City of Victoria, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree in agriculture or any related course from a recognized college or university, and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He must have practiced his profession in agriculture or acquired experience in a related field for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his appointment.

(b) The city agriculturist shall receive such compensation, emoluments and allowances as may be determined by law.

(c) The city agriculturist shall take charge of the office for agricultural services, and shall:

(1) Formulate measures for the approval of the sangguniang panlungsod and provide technical assistance and support to the city mayor in carrying out measures to ensure the delivery of basic services and provision of adequate facilities relative to agricultural services as provided for under Section 17 of the Local Government Code;

(2) Develop plans and strategies, and upon approval thereof by the city mayor, implement the same, particularly those which have to do with agricultural programs and projects which the city mayor is empowered to implement and which the sangguniang panlungsod is empowered to provide;

(3) In addition to the foregoing duties and functions, the city agriculturist shall:

(i) Ensure the maximum assistance and access to resources in the production, processing and marketing of agricultural and aqua-cultural and marine products are extended to farmers, fishermen and local entrepreneurs;

(ii) Conduct or cause to be conducted location-specific ~~agricultural researches and assist in making available~~ the appropriate technology arising out of, and disseminate information on, basic research on crops, prevention and control of plant diseases and pests, and other agricultural matters which will maximize productivity;

(iii) Assist the city mayor in the establishment and extension services of demonstration farms or aqua-culture and marine products;

(iv) Enforce rules and regulations relating to agriculture and aqua-culture; and

(v) Coordinate with government agencies and nongovernmental organizations which promote agricultural productivity through appropriate technology compatible with environmental integrity.

(4) Be in the frontline of delivery of basic agricultural services, particularly those needed for the survival of the inhabitants during and in the aftermath of man-made and natural disasters; and

(5) Recommend to the sangguniang panlungsod and advise the city mayor on all matters related to agriculture and aqua-culture which will improve the livelihood and living conditions of the inhabitants.

(d) Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

ARTICLE VIII

TRANSITORY AND FINAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 47. *Municipal Ordinance Existing at the Time of the Approval of this Act.* – All municipal ordinances of the Municipality of Victorias existing at the time of the approval of this Act shall continue to be in force within the City of Victorias until the sangguniang panlungsod shall, by ordinance, provide otherwise.

SEC. 48. *Suspension of Increase in Rates of Local Taxes.* – No increase in the rates of local taxes shall be imposed by the City of Victorias within a period of five (5) years from its acquisition of corporate existence.

SEC. 49. *Plebiscite.* – The City of Victorias shall acquire corporate existence upon the ratification of its creation by a majority of the votes cast by the qualified voters in a plebiscite to be conducted in the present Municipality of Victorias within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act. The expenses for such plebiscite shall be borne by the Municipality of Victorias. The

Commission on Elections shall conduct and supervise such plebiscite.

SEC. 50. *Officials of the City of Victorias.* – The present elective officials of the Municipality of Victorias shall continue to exercise their powers and functions until such time that a new election is held and the duly-elected officials shall have already qualified and assumed their offices. The appointive officials and employees of the Municipality of Victorias shall likewise continue exercising their functions and duties as such and they shall be automatically absorbed by the city government of the City of Victorias.

SEC. 51. *Succession Clause* – The City of Victorias shall succeed to all the assets, properties, liabilities and obligations of the Municipality of Victorias.

SEC. 52. *Jurisdiction of the Province of Negros Occidental.* – The City of Victorias shall, unless otherwise provided by law, continue to be under the jurisdiction of the Province of Negros Occidental.

SEC. 53. *Term of Office.* – (a) The term of office of all local elective officials elected after the approval of this Act shall not exceed three (3) consecutive terms for a term of three (3) years each, or unless otherwise shortened or extended by Act of Congress.

(b) Voluntary renunciation of the office for any length of time shall not be considered as an interruption in the continuity of service for the full term for which the elective official concerned was elected.

SEC. 54. *Representative District.* – Until otherwise provided by law, the City of Victorias shall continue to be part of the Third Congressional District of the Province of Negros Occidental.

SEC. 55. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts or provisions thereof shall remain valid and effective.

SEC. 56. *Applicability of Laws.* – The provisions of Republic Act Numbered 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, and other laws pertaining to the Province of Negros Occidental and such laws as are applicable to the component cities shall govern the City of Victorias insofar as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 57. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, rules or regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 58. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved, February 11, 1995.
