

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Sixteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 981

Introduce by Hon. Niel "Junjun" C. Tupas, Jr.
Fifth (5th) District, Iloilo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

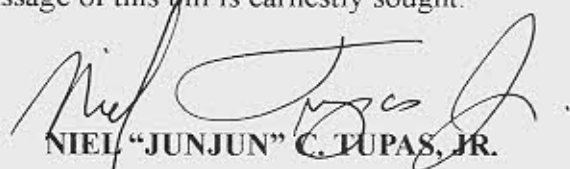
A strong nation is built on progressive local communities whose people can map their goals and take an active role in their town's development. Local autonomy and self-governance can have a ladder effect in nation building. This idea is the inspiration behind the present proposal to create the Municipality of Culasi to be composed of several barangays in the Municipality of Ajuy and two (2) barangays in the Municipality of Barotac Viejo, Province of Iloilo.

The people of Barrido, Bay-ang, Culasi, Luca, Malayu-an, Nasidman, Pedada, Pili, and Sto. Rosario all located in the Municipality of Ajuy, and of San Fernando and Santiago in the Municipality of Barotac Viejo, Iloilo have displayed the ability for self-governance and their readiness to chart their direction as a people. Most of the inhabitants of the aforementioned barangays are actively engaged in fishing and agriculture, producing fruits, vegetables, grains like *palay*, rootcrops, bamboo and coconut which are traded in neighboring barangays, municipalities and nearby provinces in the Visayas. The area boasts of having its own docking port located in Barangay Culasi, which is the biggest barangay in the Municipality of Ajuy, even bigger than the *poblacion* or town proper of Ajuy. The said docking port can eventually be converted into a fish port. Barangay Bay-ang is also ideally suited for the construction of a fish port. The existing port, coupled with the presence of several public markets in the locality, makes the area a center of commercial activity.

The profile of the barangays of the proposed Municipality of Culasi more than satisfies the requisites for the creation of a municipality as provided in The Local Government Code of 1991. Their total combined average annual income for the immediately preceding two (2) consecutive years exceeds the minimum required income of Philippine Pesos Two Million Five Hundred Thousand (Php2,500,000), their total population exceeds the minimum required population of twenty-five thousand (25,000) inhabitants, and they occupy a total land area of more than fifty (50) square kilometers.

With all the indicators of the said barangays' potential for economic growth, and in recognition of the people's achievements brought about by their determination and hard work, the conversion of the said barangays into the Municipality of Culasi is warranted and long overdue.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


NIEL "JUNJUN" C. TUPAS, JR.

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AN ACT
CREATING THE MUNICIPALITY OF CULASI IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOILO
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Creation* – There is hereby created a new municipality in the Fifth Congressional District of the Province of Iloilo to be known as the Municipality of Culasi. Barangays Barrido, Bay-ang, Culasi, Luca, Malayu-an, Nasidman, Pedada, Pili, and Sto. Rosario of the Municipality of Ajuy and Barangays San Fernando and Santiago of the Municipality of Barotac Viejo are hereby separated from their respective municipalities and shall constitute the distinct and independent Municipality of Culasi.

SECTION 2. *Seat of the Municipal Government.* - The seat of government of the new municipality shall be at Barangay Culasi.

SECTION 3. *Territorial Boundaries.* - The Municipality of Culasi as herein created shall be composed of Barangays Barrido, Bay-ang, Culasi, Luca, Malayu-an, Nasidman, Pedada, Pili, and Sto. Rosario of Ajuy, Iloilo and Barangays San Fernando and Santiago of Barotac Viejo, Iloilo with the following technical boundaries:

Bounded on the north by Barangays Mangorocoro and Progreso, Municipality of Ajuy, Iloilo; on the south by Barangays Puerto Princesa and San Francisco, Municipality of Barotac Viejo, Iloilo; on the west by Barangays Sto. Tomas, Vista Alegre and Nueva Invencion, Barotac Viejo, Iloilo; and on the east by the limits provided for under the laws governing municipal waters.

SECTION 4. *Plebiscite.* - The Municipality of Culasi shall acquire corporate existence upon ratification of its creation by a majority of the votes cast by qualified voters in a plebiscite to be conducted in the barangays comprising the Municipality of Ajuy and the Municipality of Barotac Viejo, Province of Iloilo, pursuant to Section 10, Article X of the 1987 Philippine Constitution and Section 441 of Republic Act No. 7160 otherwise known as The Local Government Code of 1991, not later than ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act.

The Commission on Elections (COMELEC) shall conduct and supervise the plebiscite. The expenses to be incurred for holding the said plebiscite shall be charged to the contingency fund of the COMELEC under the current fiscal year appropriations.

SECTION 5. *Officials of the Municipality of Culasi.* - Upon the ratification of its creation by a majority of the votes cast by qualified voters in a plebiscite called for the purpose, the municipal mayor, vice-mayor and members of the Sangguniang Bayan shall be appointed by the President of the Republic of the Philippines in consultation with the Representative of the congressional district affected. The officials shall serve and discharge their official functions until the new set of officials shall have been duly elected and qualified in the next local elections following the approval of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Transfer of Assets and Liabilities.* - Within a period six (6) months after the effectivity of this Act, the Commission on Audit shall determine the proportionate share of the new municipality in the obligations, funds, assets, and other properties.

SECTION 7. *Internal Revenue Allotment Share.* - During the first year of acquisition of its corporate existence, the Municipality of Culasi shall receive the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) shares of the barangays enumerated in Section 3 hereof from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). Thereafter, the Municipality of Culasi and all the barangays comprising it shall be entitled to Internal Revenue Allotment shares pursuant to Section 285 of Republic Act No. 7160 otherwise known as The Local Government Code of 1991.

SECTION 8. *Applicable Laws.* - The Local Government Code of 1991 and other existing laws governing the administration and operation of local governments shall govern the Municipality of Culasi.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,