

1.3 HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

Centuries ago, the area that would be Brooke's Point was sparsely inhabited by native Pala'wans. Malay settlers began arriving then and ancient Chinese were making trades with the local merchants.

Being proximate to Borneo, the southern part of Palawan was placed under the control of the Sultanate of Borneo but was ceded to Spanish rule in 1749.

A friar land until the Spaniards lost the war to Americans, the place was returned to the natives during the American regime.

The time between 1914 and 1937 was a period of preparation, assimilation, transition, and initial progress under the American rule. Settlers from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao began to open the vast and fertile land of the area.

In the early 50's, as population, trade, and industries grew in this southern part of Palawan, a clamor for self-governance arose. Thus, on June 28, 1949, Brooke's Point was finally formed as an independent municipality varing to push its own development.

Then Brooke's Point gave births to new municipalities - Quezon in 1951, Bataraza in 1963 and Sofronio Española in 1995. The creation of three municipalities posed challenge for Brooke's Point to prove her indomitable pioneering spirit to keep with the demands of times.

Brooke's Point today is formed by 18 barangays, covering an area of 85,064.90 hectares, which represents 5.71 percent of the entire Province of Palawan. The biggest barangay is Calasaguen with an area of 121.21 sq. km. and accounts for 14.25 percent of the municipality's land area. The smallest is Barangay Poblacion I sharing only 0.07 percent with an area of 0.56 sq. km.

1.4 PHYSICAL FEATURES

1.4.1 Geographic Location

Brooke's Point is located in the southeastern section of mainland Palawan at the latitude of $8^{\circ}47'$ and longitude of $117^{\circ}49'$. Approximately 192 kilometers from Puerto Princesa City, it is bordered by the municipalities of Sofronio Española in the north; Sulu Sea, east; Bataraza, south; and Rizal, at its west. Please refer to Figure 1.4.F1.

1.4.2 Climate

The municipality experiences short dries season and has no pronounced rainy period during the rest of the year. The highest recorded total rainfall in the 1997 - 1999 period was 458.60 mm. during the month of January in 1999, while the lowest was 1.44 mm. in June of 1998 (see Figure 1.4.F2).

1.4.3 Topography

With a total land area of 85,064.90 hectares, the municipality is generally hilly. Of its total land area, 63.67 percent have a slope ranging from 18 percent and above, and the rest have a slope that ranges from 0 - 18 percent. Please refer to Figure 1.4.F3.

1.4.4 Soil Fertility

The municipality's soil types include the Brooke's Clay Loam, Busuanga Clay Loam, Quingua Clay Loam, and Tagburos Clay Loam.

About 39.28 percent of the total land area is classified as highly fertile; 4.43 percent, as moderately fertile; and 56.29 percent, moderately fertile and acidic (see Figure 1.4.F4).