

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City



**THIRTEENTH CONGRESS**

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 849

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Introduced by Hon. Aurelio "Oyie" Matias Umali

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The most expeditious means of transporting people and goods to any point in the country is by air transport system. Thus, airports are established to provide infrastructure support and facilities for incoming and outgoing flights.

A big province that it is, Nueva Ecija has yet to reach full economic development despite the inherent dynamism of the Novo Ecijanos, its rich agricultural resources, and the burgeoning business and trade centers in various cities and progressive municipalities. What stands in the way of rapid development of the province is the absence of a facility to provide better movement of goods and products.

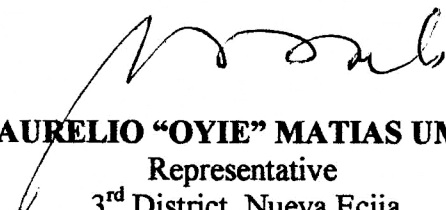
It is imperative, therefore, that a domestic commercial airport be established in the Province of Nueva Ecija to properly address the growing demands of progress.

Presently, Nueva Ecija has no existing domestic airport. The residents of Nueva Ecija are forced to go by land or sea to other provinces. The option to travel by air may be availed of only after negotiating several kilometers of land to reach the nearest airport in Metro Manila.

While there is an existing military airport located in Fort Magsaysay, it is not for commercial flights and is exclusively for military purposes. Civilians can avail of the military airport only in emergency situations. The conversion of the existing military airport in Fort Magsaysay into a domestic commercial airport will certainly address the problem.

Businessmen and ordinary citizens alike have been clamoring for its conversion. The realization of this bill would open an aerial gate to the nearby province and boost trade and commerce not only in the region but in the whole country as well.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is highly and earnestly recommended.



**AURELIO "OYIE" MATIAS UMALI**  
Representative  
3<sup>rd</sup> District, Nueva Ecija

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**AN ACT**  
**CONVERTING THE EXISTING MILITARY AIRPORT IN FORT MAGSAYSAY,**  
**CITY OF PALAYAN, PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIIJA, INTO A**  
**DOMESTIC AIRPORT, AND**  
**APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives in joint session assembled:

SECTION 1. The existing military airport in Fort Magsaysay, City of Palayan, Province of Nueva Ecija, shall be converted and upgraded, under the supervision of the Department of Transportation and Communications, into a domestic airport, equipped with modern civilian air transportation facilities capable of handling commercial air traffic.

SECTION 2. The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations for the Department of Transportation and Communications under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the operation and maintenance of the civilian domestic airport shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 3. The Department of Public Works and Highways shall issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 4. All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended or repeated accordingly.

SECTION. 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.