

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Complex, Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1041

Introduced by: HON. SOLOMON R. CHUNGALAO

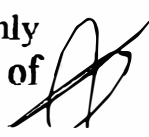
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill earnestly seeks to convert the Ubao - Taang Provincial Road traversing the barangays Ubao, Chalalo, Mongayang, Botac, Awayan, Damag, Jacmal and Taang all in the Municipality of Aguineldo, Province of Ifugao, into a national road.

The Municipality of Aguineldo is one of the far-flung Municipalities of Ifugao. There are two major roads that make this place accessible by motor vehicle, the Banaue-Mayoyao Road and the other being the Ubao-Bunhian road. These roads are uncemented and unpaved notwithstanding the fact that they are categorized as national roads and the only access roads in and out of the municipality. During the rainy days, constant mudslides occur on this section of the road making it inaccessible by motor vehicle for several weeks or even months because it takes a long time for the local Government concerned to clear the slides due to the lack of man power and the necessary funds for maintenance. The constant occurrence of landslides during the rainy season is causing not only undue inconveniences to the residents but also takes an economic toll to these people who rely heavily on agriculture for their living as they can not transport their harvested crops to the market.

To remedy this problem, an alternative road, the Ubao-Taang road was constructed and opened to facilitate the flow of investments in the countryside and also to facilitate the trade between the inhabitants with the people of the Province of Isabela so as to spur the long delayed economic development in the area. This provincial road passes through majority of the barangays of the Municipality of Aguineldo where majority of the inhabitants rely on agriculture for a living. Most if not all of the economic, agricultural and basic needs of the people from this place are purchased or come from the Province of Isabela.

Considering the mountainous terrain of the area and the fact that the road is not properly maintained, travelling along this road section is not only tasking but also extremely perilous. Notwithstanding the risks and perils of



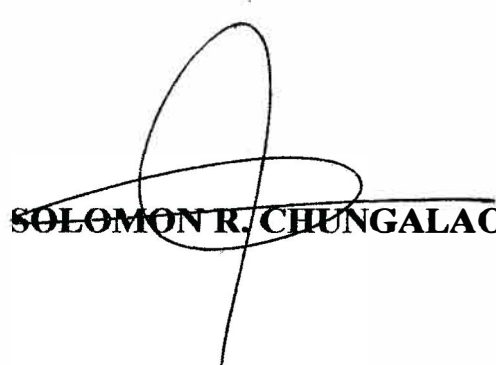
traveling in this road, the people not only of Aguinaldo but also of the neighboring town of Mayoyao do not have any other choice but to risk their lives and limbs to get through the province of Isabela and other parts of the region.

The potential tourism industry for that area which could probably boost the economic development of the municipality is hampered because of the perilous condition of the road, as this deters/discourages tourists from visiting these towns that are potential tourism sites. The road condition is, therefore, stalling the economic development of the Municipality of Aguinaldo and is increasing the tides of discontent among the people making them easy prey of the leftist elements soliciting support for their political struggle against the Government. Moreover, it has made it hard for the people to resist the temptation of easy moneymaking scheme of planting high-grade marijuana plants that could easily grow in the area because of its fertile land.

This road, if properly maintained will be a gateway of the inhabitants to numerous opportunities and in the same way will be crucial to the economic development of the areas benefited thus enormously helping the National Government in its Anti-Poverty Alleviation Program. It will also greatly help in the Anti-Insurgency and Anti-Drugs campaign of the administration.

Due to the lack of resources of the provincial government, the maintenance of this road cannot be given priority. Only a regular funding from the national government can this basic link to progress and peace be properly maintained.

The proposed conversion of this road into a national road, therefore, arises out of necessity hence immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought. In fact, it is noteworthy to note that this bill was approved in the last Congress but due to unfortunate circumstance, the upper chamber failed to approve it. It is therefore fervently hope that this time, passage of the same will move faster.



SOLOMON R. CHUNGALAO

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AN ACT
CONVERTING THE UBAO-TAANG PROVINCIAL ROAD
TRAVERSING BARANGAYS UBAO, CHALALO, MONGAYANG,
BOTAC, AWAYAN, DAMAG, JACMAL, AND TAANG ALL IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF AGUINALDO, PROVINCE OF IFUGAO INTO
A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

SECTION 1. The Ubao – Taang Provincial Road in the Municipality of Aguineldo, Province of Ifugao, is hereby converted into a national road.

SECTION 2. Appropriation. – The Secretary of Public Works and Highways shall include in the Department's program the improvement, maintenance and repair of said road, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 3. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Approved,