

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3350



Introduced by **REP. JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Barangay roads serve as the basic access between barangays and sitios and link it to Poblacions and eventually to national road junctions. Indeed, it does not only serve as a vital linkage of the barangay to the outside world but also as a virtual lifeline crucial to its very existence and survival.

The development and maintenance of barangay roads was institutionalized under the DPWH during the mid-1970s. It was initially shifted to municipal or provincial governments in the early 1980s until it was totally devolved to the local government units by virtue of Republic Act 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991.

During the stewardship of the DPWH, 70% of these roads are passable during the dry season although it usually goes down to 50% during the rainy season. However, under the management of LGUs, the conditions of these roads have deteriorated so that only 30% are passable during the dry months and further goes down to dismal 20% during rainy months. This sad scenario is due to insufficient funding support. In the present set up, funds for the maintenance of barangay roads are only sourced from a portion of the 20% Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) of the barangays, respectively, which is insufficient to fund good maintenance works.

The observed prevailing and urgent problem of this country now is that farmers have remained poor, the productivity and profitability of their endeavors is low and the expansion of areas to produce crops is hindered due to the poorly-maintained and deteriorating state of our barangay roads. In fact, a big proportion of barangay roads in this country are no longer passable and serviceable due to absence of focused and regular maintenance works and activities managed by the appropriate government agency which is the DPWH, an institution mandated, designed and manned to work on infrastructure program like maintenance of barangay roads.

With this, it is hoped that in a scheme of implementation to be made by administration, supervised by DPWH, with close coordination with local government units and employing participation of local capabilities/labor, proper funding to be released to DPWH, and plans and programs of DPWH to be done in consultation and coordination with barangay government units, the prevailing problems of low agricultural production of this country, unemployment, and low economic farmer's of the farmers will be adequately addressed

For the above mentioned reasons, approval of this bill is earnestly sought



JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI
Representative, 3rd District, Bukidnon

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Introduced by **REP. JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI**

AN ACT
FOR THE TEMPORARY TRANSFER FOR FIFTEEN (15) YEARS OF THE
RESPONSIBILITY TO DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN BARANGAY ROADS
FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

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

Section 1. To temporarily transfer the responsibility to develop and maintain barangay roads in the whole country to the Department of Public Works and Highways;

Section 2. To respond to the need to restore, repair, improve, and maintain the barangay roads that has deteriorated due to lack of maintenance works;

Section 3. To allocate P25,000.00/km/year, EMK, to take effect on July 2005 for maintenance of barangay roads amounting to more or less P10 billion a year;

Section 4. To allocate P11 billion for CY 2004-2005 for the restoration/improvement, gravel-surfacing of barangay roads, construction of bridges and cross drainage facilities;

Section 5. To limit the responsibility of the Department of Public Works and Highways to develop and maintain barangay roads nationwide to a fifteen (15) year period;

Section 6. To include the amount necessary for the implementation of the Act included supplemented in the Capital Outlay Appropriations of the Department of Public Works and Highways under the General Appropriations Act or from any source deemed appropriate available. Thereafter, such sum necessary for the development and maintenance of barangay roads nationwide shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act;

Section 7. The present IRA allotment of LGUs will not be affected by this act.

Section 8. The pertinent provisions of Republic Act 7160 otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991 is hereby amended and/or modified accordingly.

Section 9. This Act shall take effect upon approval.

Approved.
