

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Thirteenth Congress

Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **5372**



Introduced by Congresswoman Darlene R. Antonino-Custodio

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to convert the 26.5365 kilometer stretch General Santos City Circumferential Road starting from Digos-Makar Road (Katangawan Section), General Santos City to Makar-Kiamba Road, General Santos City into a national road.

The proposed national road traverses the Barangays Katangawan, Conel, San Isidro, Mabuhay, Sinawal, Apopong, Fatima and Tambler.

Spanning the city's eight rural barangays, the General Santos City Circumferential Road is considered a major component of the SOCSKSARGEN (South Cotabato-Sultan Kudarat-Sarangani-General Santos City) economic development. As a by-pass road of cargo vehicles carrying dollar earning products of SOCSKSARGEN economic growth corridor to their key export destinations such as USA, Japan, Germany, Korea, Thailand, Australia, Kuwait, Hongkong and other Asian and European countries, the General Santos City Circumferential Road is the only artery that directly connects traffic coming from the Davao City and Davao Provinces and Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao and Cotabato Provinces, and other cities and provinces for Southern and Central Mindanao to the city's major transportation facilities, the GSC Airport and the Makar Wharf, without passing through the busy roads of the city's urban center.

The conversion of the GSC Circumferential Road is therefore an appropriate step to address the brisk ingress and egress of cargo trucks and other public transport to these major cargo transshipment facilities.

This major road artery though does not only intend to decongest the heavy traffic in the city proper but also spur economic activity in the city's outlying agriculturally-rich barangays thereby allowing these barangays' erstwhile languid trade and commerce to catch up with the city's rapid economic growth, afford better employment opportunities and stimulate other business undertakings.

The city's preparedness in terms of appropriate major infrastructure facilities such as the GSC Circumferential Road is therefore a requisite to the comprehensive industrial and economic growth of SOCKSARGEN, being its virtual commercial and financial hub. It would afford the city and its outlying provinces a comparative advantage due to its potentially rich agriculture and fishery base.

Such move would further bolster the status of General Santos City as the tuna capital of the Philippines and enhance its economic position as the leading city in the SOCKSARGEN area. For while the Philippines found it difficult to have a balance of trade for the past years, General Santos City in contrast, has continued to grow economically due to a positive balance of trade. Indeed, the most recent years saw export receipts soaring by almost 13% while imports dropped by almost 19%.

It is therefore necessary that the General Santos City Circumferential Road which at this point is considered as an "Unclassified Road", be converted to a national road. Doing so would be taking cognizance and serious consideration of its potential impact to the SOCKSARGEN's economy and future owing to its strategic location and function.

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



DARLENE R. ANTONINO-CUSTODIO

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AN ACT

CONVERTING THE GENERAL SANTOS CITY CIRCUMFERENTIAL ROAD STARTING FROM DIGOS-MAKAR ROAD (KATANGAWAN SECTION), TRAVERSING THE BARANGAYS OF KATANGAWAN, CONEL, SAN ISIDRO, MABUHAY, SINAWAL, APOPONG, FATIMA AND TAMBLER INTO A NATIONAL ROAD

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

SECTION 1. The 26.5365 General Santos City Circumferential Road starting from Digos-Makar Road (Katangawan Section), traversing the Barangays of Katangawan, Conel, San Isidro, Mabuhay, Sinawal, Apopong, Fatima and Tambler is hereby converted into a national road.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Department of Public Works and highways shall issue the necessary rules, orders and circulars to implement the provision of this Act.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,