

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4215



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE XAVIER JESUS "XJ" D. ROMUALDO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill was filed due to the passage of the following resolutions of the local legislative bodies in the Province of Camiguin:

- a. Resolution No. 65, Series of 2013, of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of the Province of Camiguin, entitled, *Resolution Requesting Hon. Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo, Congressman, Lone District Of Camiguin To Pass A Law Naming The Camiguin Circumferential Road To Pedro P. Romualdo Circumferential Highway.*
- b. Resolution No. 2013-10-35 of the Sangguniang Bayan of the Municipality Mambajao, entitled, *A Resolution Requesting The Congressman Of The Lone District Of Camiguin, Hon. Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo, To Pass A Law Naming The Camiguin Circumferential Road As Pedro P. Romualdo Circumferential Highway.*
- c. Resolution No. 176, Series of 2013, of the Sangguniang Bayan of the Municipality of Mahinog entitled, *Resolution Requesting Hon. Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo, Representative Of The Lone District Of Camiguin To Introduce A Bill Naming The Camiguin Circumferential Road To Congressman Pedro P. Romualdo Circumferential Highway To Honor And To Perpetuate His Memory.*
- d. Resolution No. 14-05, Series of 2014, of the Sangguniang Bayan of the Municipality of Guinsiliban, entitled, *Resolution Naming The Portion Of The Camiguin Circumferential Road From Guinsiliban-Mahinog Boundary To Guinsiliban-Sagay Boundary Into Pedro Palarca Romualdo Circumferential Road.*
- e. Resolution No. 62, Series of 2013, of the Sangguniang Bayan of the Municipality of Sagay, entitled, *Resolution Appealing Hon. Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo To Author A Bill For Its*

Enactment To A Law Naming The Camiguin Circumferential Road To Pedro P. Romualdo Circumferential Highway.

- f. Resolution No. 15, Series of 2014, of the Sangguniang Bayan of the Municipality of Catarman, entitled, *Resolution Earnestly Recommending To Honorable Xavier Jesus De La Fuente Romualdo, Congressman Of The Lone District Of Camiguin, To Name The Circumferential Road Of Camiguin To Congressman Pedro Palarca Circumferential Road.*

At the time of his death on April 24, 2013, the late Representative Pedro “Loloy” Palarca Romualdo (hereinafter referred to as “Representative Romualdo”) was serving his fifth term as a Member of the House of Representatives (hereinafter referred to as the “House”). He served as Representative of the Lone District of Camiguin during the Eight, Ninth, and Tenth Congresses (1987-1998). Before this, he represented the Province of Camiguin as a delegate to the 1971 Constitutional Convention. After serving in the House for nine years, he was elected Governor of the Province of Camiguin for three consecutive terms (1998-2007). The people of Camiguin again sent him to represent them in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Congresses (2007-2013). Representative Romualdo was running for reelection in the May 2013 Elections when he fell ill and unexpectedly and unfortunately passed way.

Representative Romualdo is widely credited for pioneering the development of the Province of Camiguin. He believed that, provided with the proper structures, means, and opportunities, the people of Camiguin could lift themselves up and make something of themselves and that, if properly run and developed, the island Province of Camiguin, small yet full of wonders to offer the world, would flourish and truly become a paradise that defies imagination.

Representative Romualdo committed himself to making life easier and better for his constituents and embarked on a development agenda that consisted of the construction and improvement of roads, bridges, ports, flood control systems, public buildings, and other infrastructure, including tourism infrastructure, improvement of waterworks systems and the provision of potable water, electrification of barangays and sitios, agricultural modernization, and furnishing of decent and adequate housing, while always emphasizing environmental protection and the conservation of nature.

Representative Romualdo likewise prioritized the continuous upgrading of healthcare facilities in Camiguin and the capability of local government units to provide public health services. Through his efforts, the facilities and services of the Camiguin General Hospital, the Catarman District Hospital, and the rural health units in Camiguin have vastly improved.

A self-made man who came from very humble beginnings, Representative Romualdo's own life was proof that education is the fundamental solution to poverty. Hence, he was a passionate advocate of making education accessible to as many as possible. Representative Romualdo authored Republic Act ("RA") No. 7923 and RA No. 8481, which respectively created the Camiguin Polytechnic State College and the Camiguin School of Arts and Trade. Wanting to ensure that young people in Camiguin would actually go to and finish college, Representative Romualdo devised the game-changing educational grant program, now known in Camiguin as the Provincial Youth Grantee Program, which has resulted in enabling thousands of young men and women to have better opportunities in life.

Prior to his untimely passing, Representative Romualdo sought to establish public secondary schools in areas in Camiguin where such were lacking. Hence, he authored the laws that created the Maac National High School¹ in the Municipality of Guinsiliban, the Mahinog National High School II² in the Municipality of Mahinog, and the Alangilan Integrated School³ in the Municipality of Sagay.

During his stint as Governor of the Province of Camiguin, Representative Romualdo instituted and implemented various reforms in the Provincial Government of Camiguin (the "Provincial Government"). He was recognized for his style of governance and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Merit for good local governance and leadership in 2006. Also, during his administration, the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council of Camiguin was a frequent winner of the *Gawad Kalasag* Award in the regional and national levels, due to his initiatives in strengthening the disaster preparedness and mitigation capabilities of the Provincial Government and in introducing community-based disaster mitigation.

As a Member of the House of Representatives, Representative Romualdo actively and diligently participated in committee deliberations and plenary debates, thereby distinguishing himself with his contributions to the enhancement of legislation and the thorough conduct of congressional oversight. Representative Romualdo's colleagues and the leadership of the House, perhaps as a testament to their trust and confidence in his integrity and abilities, consistently assigned him to sensitive positions. In the 8th and 9th Congresses, he was elected to the Commission on Appointments ("CA") and served as Chairman of its Committee on Labor, Employment, and Social Welfare and Committee on National Defense, respectively. In the 10th Congress, the House elected him Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional Amendments. When he returned to House in the 14th Congress, he was elected Chairman of the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability. In the 15th Congress, he served again in the CA and was named Chairman of that body's Committee on Public Works and Highways.

¹ Republic Act No. 10020.

² Republic Act No. 10234.

³ Republic Act No. 10304.

Throughout his five terms in Congress, Representative Romualdo spoke on and brought to the attention of the House several issues of vital importance to the country and the government and filed numerous measures, both of national and local significance. Among the laws he authored or co-authored are the Cooperative Code of the Philippines,⁴ RA No. 6939, which created the Cooperative Development Authority, RA No. 6656, which protects the security of tenure of those in the Civil Service during government reorganizations, the Universally Accessible Cheaper and Quality Medicines Act of 2008,⁵ the Mindanao Development Authority Act of 2010,⁶ RA No. 10172, which authorized local civil registrars and consul generals to correct clerical or typographical errors in the birthdates and sex of persons, RA No. 10374, which extended the legal existence of the Land Bank of the Philippines, RA No. 10574, which allowed foreign equity in rural banks, and the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act.⁷

This bill is a simple gesture of gratefulness and appreciation to a person who has made tremendous contributions to the progress of Camiguin and the improvement of the quality of life of its people. It is neither a measure for vanity nor aggrandizement. It is but a tribute to a person who earnestly served his country and his province and who stands as a shining example of leadership and genuine service, and whose vision for Camiguin continues to guide and inspire the new leaders of the province.

In view of all the foregoing, it is fervently hoped that the Members of Congress will support the prompt passage of this measure and its enactment into law.



XAVIER JESUS "XJ" D. ROMUALDO

⁴ Republic Act No. 6938.

⁵ Republic Act No. 9502.

⁶ Republic Act No. 9996.

⁷ Republic Act No. 10591.

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE XAVIER JESUS "XJ" D. ROMUALDO

AN ACT
NAMING THE CAMIGUIN CIRCUMFERENTIAL ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF
CAMIGUIN INTO THE PEDRO P. ROMUALDO CIRCUMFERENTIAL HIGHWAY

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

1 SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the *Pedro P. Romualdo Circumferential Highway Act*.

2
3 SEC. 2. The Circumferential Road in the Province of Camiguin, a national road which traverses
4 and connects the Municipalities of Mambajao, Mahinog, Guinsiliban, Sagay, and Catarman, is
5 hereby named and shall henceforth be known as the Pedro P. Romualdo Circumferential
6 Highway, in honor of the late Pedro Palarca Romualdo and in recognition of his service to the
7 country and the people of Camiguin, as a Member of the House of Representatives representing
8 the Lone District of Camiguin during the Eight, Ninth, Tenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth
9 Congresses and as Governor of the Province of Camiguin from 1998 to 2007.

10
11 SEC. 3. The Secretary of Public Works and Highways shall issue the necessary rules,
12 regulations, and orders to implement this Act.

13
14 SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect following its publication in the Official Gazette.

15
16 Approved,