

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

Sixteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4330



Introduced by **Hon. Frederick F. Abueg**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The proposed bill seeks to convert the circumferential road from Barangay Poblacion and around along the coast, municipality of Balabac in the Second Congressional District of Palawan into a national road to be known as Mayor Matias Vicente Highway. The municipality of Balabac is an island municipality located in the southernmost part of the province with a distance of approximately fifty (50) kilometers north from Sabah, Malaysia, across the Balabac Strait.

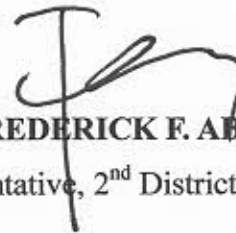
Mayor Matias Vicente was the founding mayor of the municipality of Balabac. He also served first as mayor of the municipal district of Balabac after the Second World War and the first mayor when Balabac was declared a regular municipality in an executive order issued by President Quirino in 1951.

It is home to 35,758 residents as of 2010 census conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO). The municipality is notable for its unique indigenous plant and animal species such as the Philippine mouse-deer or Pilandok which can only be found in the island. Apart from the distinct flora and fauna, the historic Cape Melville Lighthouse located in the said municipality was declared as a National Historical Landmark by the National Historical Commission of the Philippines in 1996.

At present, residents of the island depend on farming, fishing, and barter trading with the nearby islands of Sulu and Sabah market centers as sources of

livelihood. The conversion of the circumferential road into a national road would further enhance trading with nearby municipalities in Palawan as well as neighboring islands in the South. Products can be easily transported to and from Balabac with the nationalization of said road and strengthen the economy of said municipality.

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



FREDERICK F. ABUEG

Representative, 2nd District of Palawan

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AN ACT

CONVERTING THE CIRCUMFERENTIAL ROAD FROM BARANGAY POBLACION AND AROUND ALONG THE COAST, MUNICIPALITY OF BALABAC, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN, INTO A NATIONAL ROAD TO BE KNOWN AS MAYOR MATIAS VICENTE HIGHWAY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

1 SECTION 1. The Circumferential Road from Barangay Poblacion and
2 around along the cost, in the municipality of Balabac, province of Palawan to be
3 known as Mayor Matias Vicente Highway, is hereby converted into a National
4 Road.

5 SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways
6 shall include in the Department's program the improvement, maintenance and
7 repair of the said road, the funding of which shall be included in the annual
8 General Appropriations Act.

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

Approved,