

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Season

HOUSE BILL NO. **4746**



Introduced by Rep. CESAR V. SARMIENTO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the declared policy of the State as enshrined under our Constitution to promote comprehensive rural development (Section 21 of Article II) and to ensure the equitable distribution of government services and to provide optimum opportunity for all regions to develop (Section 1 of Article XII).

In line with such policy, the government, through Presidential Decree No. 1894, granted a franchise to the Philippine National Construction Corporation and paved the way for the construction and operation of expressways and other infrastructure toll facilities, which have spawned immense benefits to the country's economic development as they serve as main arteries in the transportation of trade and commerce.

In its Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016, the National Economic and Development Authority, citing a study by the Asian Development Bank, stressed, however, that inadequate infrastructure has been indicated as a critical component to economic growth. It remains then that, to bring about greater development especially in the countryside, further extensions and operations of expressways are necessary.

This law envisions an extension of the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) until Matnog in Sorsogon or about 444 kilometers farther than Lucena City which was the original end point as intended by Presidential Decree No. 1894. The construction and operation of such extension will certainly benefit the traversed areas, especially the Bicolanos numbering in millions. Notably, the Bicol Region is composed of the provinces of Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, Masbate and Sorsogon.

The SLEX extension to Matnog will specifically, among others, (a) improve the efficiency and convenience of transporting people and goods in and through Bicol, (b) promote the tourism in the region, (c) facilitate more business and social activities, (d) decongest traffic around the area and (e) bring the national government closer to the people in the provision of relief and other needed services.

Foregoing considered, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "C. Sarmiento".

CESAR V. SARMIENTO

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AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 1 (b) of PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1894

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

SECTION 1. *Amendatory Provision.* Section 1 (b) of Presidential Decree No. 1894 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"(b) the South Luzon Expressway from Nichols, Pasay City (Station 10 + 540) to MATNOG, SORSOGON;"

SEC. 2. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 3. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,