

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5477



INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE RANDOLPH S. TING

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Municipality of Peñablanca is a first class municipality in the Province of Cagayan. It has a land area of 1,193.20 sq. km. and a population of 42,736 per 2010 Census. Situated east of the provincial capital, Tuguegarao City, the municipality is home to Callao Caves and Eco-Tourism Park, one of the province's and the region's well-known landmarks and tourist spots.

Traversed by the Pinacanauan River, a major tributary of the Mighty Cagayan River, Peñablanca is one of the province's producer of rice, corn, mongo, and peanuts because of its rich agricultural lands. Poultry and swine produce is also on the uptrend in the locality.

But the accelerated economic growth of the municipality is attributed to its being site of the Callao Caves Resort and Eco-Tourism Park that attracts thousands of tourists yearly, both foreign and domestic. The cave has seven chambers and its chamber is 100 meters long, 50 meters wide and 36 meters high. Its river has been a sight for spelunking, water rafting, and other water sports activities. The cave is also a rich source of Guano and a circadian flight of hundreds of thousands of bats is seen daily at dusks. The area has been declared as an Eco-Tourism Zone by the Department of Tourism.

Callao Caves can be reached through two (2) Access Roads: one is through the Peñablanca-Quibal road where it leads directly to the caves and the other is through the Agugaddan-Malibabag-Callao Road. However, access to the caves and to the resort has been made difficult by the poor road condition. The Penablanca-Quibal Road is landslide-prone while the Agugaddan-Malibabag-Callao Road is rough. Furthermore, the Agugaddan-Malibabag-Callao road provides access to the Callao Caves Resort and it traverses the populated areas of the three (3) barangays. These areas serve as expansion of the amenities of the eco-tourism zone.

The poor condition of the provincial road has dampened economic activities in these areas and has slowed down the delivery of institutional help such as education, health, and other vital social services. Having a great potential for increased economic endeavors, these barangays maintain to be underdeveloped. On the other hand, conversion of this road and upgrading its status into a national road will open the area for greater economic opportunities being endowed with an eco-tourism site and rich agricultural potential.

For the benefit of constituents in these areas, approval of his Bill is earnestly sought.


RANDOLPH S. TING
Representative
3rd Legislative District
Province of Cagayan

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AN ACT

CONVERTING THE PROVINCIAL ROAD TRAVERSING THE BARANGAYS OF
AGUGADDAN, MALIBABAG, CALLAO, ALL IN PEÑABLANCA, CAGAYAN GOING TO
THE CALLAO CAVES ECO-TOURISM ZONE (VIA TAWI ROUTE) INTO A NATIONAL
ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. **Conversion of Provincial Road.** The provincial road traversing the
barangays of Agugaddan, Malibabag, Callao (Via Tawi Route) going to the Callao Caves Eco-
Tourism Zone in Peñablanca, Cagayan is hereby converted into a national road under the
jurisdiction and supervision of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH.)

SECTION 2. **Implementation.** The amount necessary for the improvement of the said
road shall be charged to the appropriations of the Department of Public Works and Highways
under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for its
repair and maintenance shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 3. **Effectivity.** This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,