

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

H. B. No. 5623



Introduced by HONORABLE SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XII, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution declares, "The goals of the national economy are a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth; a sustained increase in the amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the benefit of the people; and an expanding productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged". In pursuing these goals, the Constitution provides that "all regions of the country shall be given optimum opportunity to develop."

However, the State has continuously failed to promote simultaneous development among the regions. 2014 marked the opening of the Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway ("TPLEX"). TPLEX is the third expressway connecting the country's capital of Manila to the northern areas of Luzon. The construction of TPLEX has brought immediate impact in the development of trade and tourism in Northern Luzon. It made Baguio City, a popular tourist destination, more accessible. In fact, travel time from Manila to Baguio had been cut short from seven hours to less than five. Thus, Baguio City has experienced an exponential rise in the number of visiting tourists and consequently, its revenues also increased significantly.

In contrast, there are only two expressways leading to Southern Luzon – the North Luzon Expressway and the Star Tollway and these two combined lead up to Batangas Province only. Thus, compared to the expressways of Northern Luzon which cover at least five provinces, it can be inferred Southern Luzon has been spared from development. The promising tourist destinations located in the southern areas of Luzon have remained stagnant, untapped and underappreciated due to difficulty in access. Along with the underdevelopment of these areas comes the slow growth in terms of commerce. In order to pursue optimum opportunity for development among the regions, there is therefore the need to give attention to Southern Luzon. By constructing additional expressways that would make areas as far as Sorsogon Province more accessible by road, only one result will be achieved – progress.

Hence, this Bill seeks the construction of expressways expanding the reach of SLEX and Star Tollway. By doing so, the State will be fulfilling its responsibility in promoting optimum growth among the regions located in Southern Luzon. Through this Bill, it is envisioned that there will be an improvement in the tourism industry that will translate to a developed and progressive citizenry. Therefore, the immediate passage of this Bill is sought for.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Lanete', with a large, stylized initial 'C' on the left.

SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D.
Representative
Third District, Province of Masbate

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**AN ACT MANDATING THE CONSTRUCTION OF
ADDITIONAL EXPRESSWAYS LEADING TO SOUTHERN LUZON**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Expanded South Luzon Expressway Act.*”

SECTION 2. *Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote optimum development among its regions.

SECTION 3. *Establishment of Expressways.* – It is hereby mandated the construction and establishment of additional expressways connecting Manila to the southern most province of Luzon Island.

SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, rules, regulations, orders, circulars, and memoranda inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* - Should any provision of this Act be declared invalid or unconstitutional, no other provisions hereof shall be thereby affected.

SECTION 6. *Appropriation.* - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act for the first five (5) years shall be sourced out from the gross annual revenues of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and thereafter in a special fund to be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), shall, within one (1) year after its approval prepare and issue the necessary guidelines to implement the same.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,