

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5764



*Introduced by Rep. Imelda Quibranza-Dimaporo, Rep. Abdullah D. Dimaporo,
Rep. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba, Rep. Vicente F. Belmonte
And Jr. Rep. Ansaruddin A.M.A. Adiong*

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide for the construction of two national highways and a crossroad that will connect the Provinces of Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur and Bukidnon, including the cities of Iligan and Marawi. The said highway shall start from the Lanao del Norte Interior Circumferential Road in the Municipality of Tagoloan, Lanao del Norte to the Municipality of Talakag, Province of Bukidnon, with a crossroad at Barangay Panalawan, Tagoloan, Lanao del Norte and connecting roads to the national highway in Iligan City, through Barangay Pugaan, Iligan City and to the national highway in Marawi City through the Municipality of Kapa, Lanao del Sur. The aforesaid crossroad and national highways shall be known as the Muslim-Christian Unity Crossroad and Highways to highlight their literal significance in improving the good relations – trade, personal, cultural - between the Muslims and the Christians in the Lanao Provinces and Bukidnon and the cities of Iligan and Marawi, in particular, and the whole of Mindanao in general.

The proposed crossroad and national highways will certainly benefit not only the Lanao Provinces and Bukidnon but the entire Mindano region in general as it will facilitate the efficient and safer flow of people and goods within the entire island. More specifically, the nearby provinces of Misamis Occidental and Oriental, Maguindanao and Cotabato Provinces as well as the Zamboanga Provinces will directly benefit from the road construction as it will significantly shorten travel time to and from the aforesaid provinces.

Once completed, the proposed national highways will open up vast tracts of idle lands to cultivation and development to the benefit of the host communities. It will certainly catalyze the development of agriculture in the concerned areas, enhance food security, generate employment opportunities and create new sources of income.

While a national highway between Iligan City and the Municipality of Talakag, Bukidnon is now under construction, the said highway is primarily for the benefit of Iligan City. Besides, it traverses steep mountain routes on the eastern side of Iligan City that are dangerous for heavy trucks to negotiate. Once completed, the proposed Muslim-Christian Unity Crossroad and Highways will complement the said highway.

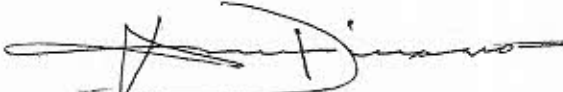
Most importantly, the proposed Muslim-Christian Unity Highway will promote peace and order in Mindanao as it will facilitate the efficient deployment of government security forces and significantly reduce their response time in times of emergencies. The Army brigades in Marawi City and Bukidnon; the Army battalions in Iligan City and Baloi, Lanao del Norte, and the Army Division in Cagayan de Oro City can easily and promptly deploy personnel to any part that may need reinforcements. With the proposed highways in place, insurgent and criminal elements will think twice in committing atrocities against any target in the vicinity of the highways, Iligan City most especially, as they can easily be intercepted by government forces at the Lanao del Norte-Bukidnon Road of the proposed Muslim-Christian Unity Crossroad and Highways.

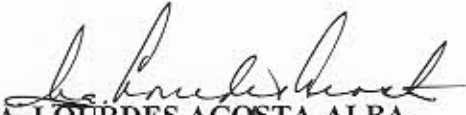
Marawi City and Lanao del Sur, in particular, will also benefit especially so that at present, there is only one point of entry and exit thereto which is the Iligan-Marawi National Highway. Past incidents of landslides and disruptions in the peace and order situation over the said highway proved costly for Marawi City and Lanao del Sur whose local economies are greatly dependent on land transportation having no airports and seaports linking it to other regions. With another route in place, Marawi City and Lanao del Sur will flourish as the proposed highway will certainly enhance its security and economic development. Such development will have ripple effects on the nearby cities and provinces.

The proposed measure is crucial to the economic development of the whole of Mindanao in the sense that roads play a major role in the economic progress of communities and countries. This is especially true for the Philippines as the Nation's economy relies heavily on land transportation particularly in the movement of people and goods. Good and extensive road networks stimulate business activities and generate economic opportunities.

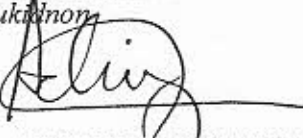
In view of the foregoing premises, the prompt approval of this measure is earnestly sought and recommended.


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1st District, Lanao del Sur

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AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NATIONAL HIGHWAY FROM THE LANA DEL NORTE INTERIOR CIRCUMFERENTIAL ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TAGOLOAN, LANA DEL NORTE TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF TALAKAG, PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON, WITH A CROSSROAD AT BARANGAY PANALAWAN, MUNICIPALITY OF TAGOLOAN, LANA DEL NORTE AND CONNECTING ROADS TO THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY IN ILIGAN CITY THROUGH BARANGAY PUGAAN, ILIGAN CITY AND TO THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY IN MARAWI CITY THROUGH THE MUNICIPALITY OF KAPAI, LANA DEL SUR, TO BE KNOWN AS THE MUSLIM-CHRISTIAN UNITY CROSSROAD AND HIGHWAYS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. There shall be constructed, under the supervision of the Department of Public Works and Highways, a national highway from the Lanao del Norte Interior Circumferential Road in the Municipality of Tagoloan, Lanao del Norte to the Municipality of Talakag, Bukidnon, with a Crossroad at Barangay Panalawan, Tagoloan, Lanao del Norte and connecting roads to the national highway in Iligan City through Barangay Pugaan, Iligan City and to the national highway in Marawi City, through the Municipality of Kapai, Lanao del Sur. The aforesaid crossroad and national highways shall be known as the Muslim-Christian Unity Crossroad and Highways.

SECTION 2. The amount of one billion pesos (P1,000,000,000) shall be appropriated for this purpose in the General Appropriations Act of the year following the approval of this Act. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the completion and maintenance of the national highway shall be included in the appropriation of the Department of Public Works and Highways in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,