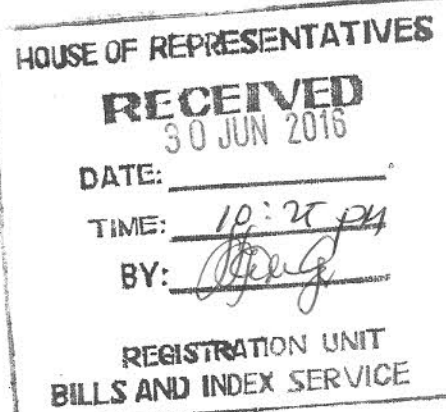


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 627



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

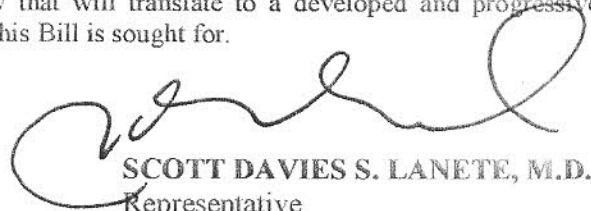
EXPLANATORY NOTE

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.



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

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 627

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

AN ACT
MANDATING THE CONSTRUCTION OF
THE QUEZON-BICOL EXPRESSWAY (QuBEx)

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 “*Quezon-Bicol Expressway Act.*”

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

SEC 3. *Creation of the Expressway.* – There is hereby created the Quezon-Bicol Expressway (QuBEx) which shall be financed, constructed, operated and maintained by a grantee, offeror, consortium or proponent, under and by virtue of Republic Act No. 6957, as amended by Republic Act No. 7718, otherwise known as the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Law. This Expressway shall link the province of Quezon with the Bicol region starting from Malicboy, Quezon and terminating in the province of Sorsogon. The Department of Public Works and highways (DPWH) Engineering District concerned shall construct the connector road for the purpose of linking the terminus of the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) Toll Road 4 (TR4) in Lucena City, and the entrance of the QuBEx in Malicboy.

SEC 4. *Implementing Agency.* – The DPWH shall be the lead implementing agency for this Act.

SEC 5. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to defray the cost of undertaking, and completing the feasibility study for this project and other activities relative thereto shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the DPWH shall, in consultation with the stakeholders, formulate and promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC 7. *Separability Clause.* – Should any provision of this Act be declared invalid or unconstitutional, no other provision hereof shall be thereby affected.

SEC 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, rules, regulations, orders, circulars, and memoranda inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved