

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5277**



Introduced by Honorable Mark O. Go

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to convert **Marcos Highway to Westernlink Circumferential By-Pass road** into a national road.

Efficient roads networks are fundamental in sustaining a vibrant local economy. Roads bring in investments, which in turn generates employment. Baguio, being a highly urbanized city, and commonly referred to as the *Summer Capital of the Philippines*, is a center of business, trade, education and tourism in the Cordillera Administrative Region. As such, the maintenance of the city's roads network is crucial to the local economic development not just of the city but of the greater regional area as well. With a steady increase of visitors since 2011, ensuring the reliability of the city's roads is of urgent need.

In converting the **2.400 km-long Marcos Highway to Westernlink Circumferential By-Pass and 6 m-wide road** into a national road, the responsibility of maintenance and improvement would be transferred to the national government through the Department of Public Works and National Highways, allowing the local government of Baguio to channel funds earmarked for the maintenance of the said road to other local development programs. This will ensure that growth and development would not be concentrated merely on the areas traversed by the said road, but aptly spread across the city. The expected increase in economic activity in the city and the improvement of other socio-economic indicators among its population brought forth by the conversion of the said road shall naturally redound to the benefit of the national government.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


MARK O. GO

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**AN ACT CONVERTING THE MARCOS HIGHWAY TO WESTERLINK
CIRCUMFERENTIAL BY-PASS ROAD IN THE CITY OF BAGUIO INTO A
NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. The Marcos Highway to Westernlink Circumferential by-pass road connecting the Marcos Highway and Western Link Circumferential Road, in the City of Baguio, is hereby converted into a national road under the supervision of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

SECTION 2. The Secretary of DPWH shall include in the Department's program the improvement, repair and maintenance of the said road, the funding of which shall be included 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 at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,