

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2132



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ADRIAN MICHAEL A. AMATONG

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to convert the Baliguian Coastal Road, which stretches from the boundary of the Municipality of Gutalac in Barangay Mamawan to Barangay Kauswagan, all in the Municipality of Baliguian in the Province of Zamboanga del Norte, into a national road to be known as the Gutalac-Baliguian Road.

The Baliguian Coastal Road connects the municipalities in the northern part of the 3rd District of Zamboanga del Norte to the far-flung municipalities of Baliguian, Siocon, Sirawai, and Sibuco (also called Triple S-B). While there is already the Zamboanga West Coast Road that links those municipalities, said road stretching has been closed in several instances due to landslides and slips, especially on the stretch of 30.9 kilometers where it passes through mountainous terrain and forested areas. Thus, the Baliguian Coastal Road has been constructed in order to serve as an alternate route, as it is found by the District Engineer to be more feasible with flatter slopes, shorter road length, and greater accessibility to the coastal barangays of Baliguian where most of the population of the municipality lives.

The necessity of converting the Baliguian Coastal Road into a national road is further emphasized in its inclusion as a priority project in the Zamboanga Peninsula Regional Development Plan for 2017-2022 of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)- Region IX. The Development Plan provides that the Baliguian Coastal Road would "strengthen the physical and economic linkages among growth centers and rural areas" and "provide better connectivity for the primary, secondary, bypass and diversion road networks that will improve transport systems and facilitate efficient movement of agriculture and fishery products, people, and services in Zamboanga Peninsula." Moreover, the Baliguian Coastal Road is one of the eight road projects funded under the "Improving Growth Corridors in Mindanao Sector Project" of the Asian Development Bank.

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


ADRIAN MICHAEL A. AMATONG

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AN ACT
CONVERTING THE ROAD STRETCHING FROM THE BOUNDARY OF THE
MUNICIPALITY OF GUTALAC IN BARANGAY MAMAWAN TO BARANGAY
KAUSWAGAN, ALL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALIGUIAN,
PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE, INTO A NATIONAL ROAD,
TO BE KNOWN AS THE GUTALAC-BALIGUIAN NATIONAL ROAD,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. The road stretching from the boundary of the Municipality of Gutalac in Barangay Mamawan to Barangay Kauswagan, Municipality of Baliguian in the Province of Zamboanga del Norte, also known as the Baliguian Coastal Road, is hereby converted into a national road to be known as the Gutalac-Baliguian Road.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of Public Works and Highways 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.

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

Approved,