

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3052**



Introduced by **Representatives JOEY SARTE SALCEDA**
and KEITH MICAH D.L. TAN

AN ACT
MANDATING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE QUEZON-BICOL EXPRESSWAY,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article 2, Section 10 of the 1987 Constitution provides that: "The State shall promote social justice in all phases of national development."

The 2018 Global Competitiveness Report published by the World Economic Forum ranks the Philippines 92nd out of 140 countries in terms of quality and quantity of infrastructure. We remain in the worst ranks in the Southeast Asian region for the past decade.

The link between investments in infrastructure and economic growth is well established in the literature. Various studies reveal that there is a positive correlation between infrastructure, economic growth and, ultimately, poverty reduction. Investments in infrastructure can generate positive externalities throughout an economy, leading to social returns that exceed private returns¹, as affirmed by the Asian Development Bank Institute in its study, "The Benefits of Regional Infrastructure Development in Asia: A Quantitative Exploration."

An efficient and well-maintained road system would allow:

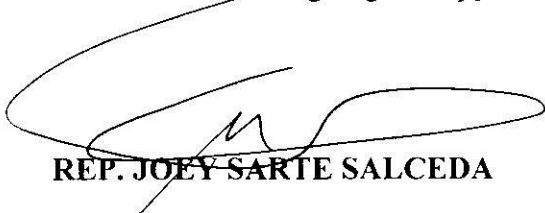
- (a) reduced prices because of competitive transport costs;
- (b) better access to good paying work and basic social services;
- (c) production and marketing of higher-value cash crops and supply of cheaper agricultural inputs; and
- (d) good infrastructure also improves a country's growth prospects by strengthening its investment climate thereby making it attractive to foreign investors.

¹ www.adbi.org/working-paper/2010/06/30/3923

A superhighway linking the provinces of Quezon and Bicol will cut transportation time and hence facilitate trade among them. Increased trade in these provinces will mean decongestion of Metro Manila because of lesser migration to find better jobs. Basic social services can be easily delivered especially in times of calamities. Ecozones linked together means an attractive Pacific side international trading center. Overall, the potential positive impact of this project will not only redound to the six provinces involved but to the whole country.

This bill was first filed during the 16th Congress, and has been refiled in the 17th Congress and 18th Congress, where it was approved on the Third and Final Reading, and was transmitted to the Senate.

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



REP. JOEY SARTE SALCEDA



REP. KEITH MICAH D.L. TAN

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the “Quezon-Bicol Expressway Act.”

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

SEC. 3. 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 Republic Act No. 6957, as amended by Republic Act No. 7718, otherwise known as the Build- Operate-Transfer (BOT) Law. The QuBex shall link the province of Quezon with the Bicol Region starting from Barangay Malicboy, Municipality of Pagbilao, Province of Quezon and terminating in the Province of Sorsogon. The Quezon Fourth District Engineering Office (DEO) of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall construct the connector road that shall link the terminus of the South Luzon Expressway (SLEx) Toll Road 4 (TR4) in Lucena City, and the entrance of the QuBEx in Brgy. Malicboy.

SEC. 4. The DPWH shall be the lead implementing agency of this Act.

SEC. 5. The amount necessary to defray the cost of undertaking and completing the feasibility study and detailed engineering design for this project and other activities related thereto shall be included in the General Appropriations Act (GAA). Thereafter, the Secretary of DPWH shall include in the Department’s program the construction of said road, the funding of which shall be included in the GAA.

SEC. 6. 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. Should any provision of this Act be declared invalid or unconstitutional, no other provision hereof shall be thereby affected.

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

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

Approved,