

Republic of the Philippines

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3509**



Introduced by HONORABLE ROMEO M. ACOP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Engineering districts are key institutional mechanisms in the implementation of priority infrastructure projects such as the construction, maintenance and rehabilitation of national roads and bridges, as well as irrigation and flood control projects in a given district. These infrastructures serve as building blocks of economic and social development in the area.

Republic Act No. 8793, entitled "An Act Upgrading the Rizal Sub-District Engineering Office into a Regular District Engineering Office to be Known as the Rizal First Engineering District and Appropriating Funds Therefor," enacted on 27 June 2000, created the Rizal First Engineering District which has jurisdiction over infrastructure and public works in the municipalities of Angono, Binangonan, Cainta and Taytay of the First Legislative District of Rizal, and including Antipolo City. Consequently, the then existing engineering district office in Pasig was renamed as the Rizal Second Engineering District with jurisdiction over the municipalities of Tanay, Jala-Jala, San Mateo, Teresa, Rodriguez, Morang, Baras, Cardona and Pililia—the same jurisdiction of the Second Legislative District of the Province of Rizal.

However, since the conversion of Antipolo City from a municipality into a component city of Rizal Province on April 4, 1998 under Republic Act No. 8508, the city has grown to its present status not only as a highly-progressive city but also as the most populous one in the CALABARZON region with a population of 887,399 as of 2020.¹ Antipolo City alone consists of two (2) legislative districts. To ensure the efficient implementation of infrastructure projects in the two legislative districts of the city, it is imperative that a new engineering district be created for the City of Antipolo.

This bill seeks to create a separate district engineering office in the City of Antipolo which shall be known as the Rizal Third Engineering District, amending for the purpose Republic Act No. 8793. It shall have jurisdiction over

¹Philippine Statistics Authority. (2021). *Highlights of the Region IV-A (CALABARZON) Population 2020 Census of Population and Housing (2020 CPH)*. Available at: <https://psa.gov.ph/population-and-housing/node/165019>.

infrastructure and public works in the sixteen (16) composite barangays of the city divided into eight (8) barangays of each legislative district. It will free the current Rizal First Engineering District from the burden of stretching its limited resources to provide for the ever-growing public works needs of the City of Antipolo, as well as facilitate a more focused response to the developmental requirements of the city.

Under existing guidelines of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the creation of a new district engineering office (DEO) requires a national road length of less than 100 kilometers for a third class DEO, a land area of 100 square kilometers, and a population of 250,000 inhabitants. At present, Antipolo City has a national road length of 98.73 kilometers (including bridges), a land area of 156.68 square kilometers and a population of 887,399 as of 2020. Thus, the requirements for the creation of a new DEO are well complied with.

For the foregoing reasons, the immediate approval of the bill is earnestly sought.


HON. ROMEO M. ACOP
Representative
2nd District, Antipolo City

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AN ACT

**CREATING A SEPARATE DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE IN THE CITY OF
ANTIPOLO, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. There is hereby created, under the supervision of the Department of Public Works and Highways, a separate district engineering office in the City of Antipolo, which shall be known as the Rizal Third Engineering District.

SECTION 2. The Rizal Third Engineering District shall be separated from the Rizal First Engineering District and shall assume jurisdiction over infrastructure and public works in the First and Second Congressional Districts of Antipolo City.

SECTION 3. The Secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is hereby authorized to promulgate and effect rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 4. The Secretary of the DPWH shall include in the Department's program the funding requirements for the operationalization of the Rizal Third Engineering District for the year following the enactment of this Act, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the Rizal First Engineering District. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued operation of the said district engineering office shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 5. Republic Act No. 8793, entitled "An Act Upgrading the Rizal Sub-District Engineering Office into a Regular District Engineering Office to be Known as the Rizal First Engineering District and Appropriating Funds Therefor," is hereby amended accordingly. All laws, decrees, executive issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,