

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **8543**



Introduced by Representative HORACIO P. SUANSING, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The following measure seeks the conversion of Esperanza – Lebak Road, a local road of strategic importance spanning across the Municipalities of Esperanza and Lebak in the Second Legislative District of Sultan Kudarat into a national road.

The conversion of the Esperanza – Lebak road into a national road has been previously proposed by this Representation for inclusion into the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Annual Investment Plan of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Central Office and the DPWH Sultan Kudarat 2nd District Engineering Office, and national government funds amounting to 20 Million Pesos were secured for the conduct of a project feasibility study in 2019. It was also previously endorsed by the Regional Development Council XII via RDC XII Resolution No. 141, s. 2021. However, to fully ensure the construction, maintenance and improvement of this existing passageway, it is of great necessity to convert the Esperanza – Lebak local road into a national bypass road, in order to secure the necessary funds for its full implementation through appropriations from the National Government.

Upon approval and implementation of this measure, the conversion of the Esperanza – Lebak local road into a national bypass road will assuage long-standing challenges in efforts to link local communities in the upper valley areas of the aforementioned municipalities, specifically the Dulangan Manobo and Teduray tribal communities residing along the proposed passageway of the Esperanza – Lebak National Bypass Road, to existing national road networks.

This endeavor would then be of great significance not only to concurrent efforts to promote tourism, industry and agriculture in these respective areas, but more importantly in pursuits to extend access to basic social services and programs to communities previously deterred from receiving such services due to physical impediments to access, while also providing congenial conditions for the full-fledged establishment of robust, resilient and vibrant local economic networks in these areas.

In view of the foregoing, early consideration and approval of this bill are earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'H' followed by a long horizontal stroke and a diagonal line.

HORACIO P. SUANSING JR.
Second District of Sultan Kudarat

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AN ACT
CONVERTING THE ESPERANZA-LEBAK ROAD, LOCATED IN THE
PROVINCE OF SULTAN KUDARAT INTO A 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 Esperanza-Lebak Road, located in the Province of Sultan Kudarat, is hereby converted into a national road.

SECTION 2. The Secretary of Public Works and Highways shall include in the Department's program the improvement, repair, and maintenance of 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 at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,