

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2689**



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Introduced by:  
**HONORABLE JAIME EDUARDO MARC D. COJUANGCO**  
Representative, 1<sup>st</sup> District, Tarlac

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**AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE IN THE PROVINCE OF TARLAC, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is the primary engineering and construction arm of the national government, responsible for implementing the country's infrastructure development agenda. At the forefront of its field operations are District Engineering Offices (DEOs), which serve as the local implementing arms of the DPWH in each province or legislative district.

At present, the entire Province of Tarlac is served by two (2) district engineering offices — the DPWH Tarlac First and Second District Engineering Offices. The extensive workload, geographical breadth, and growing infrastructure demands of the province necessitate the establishment of additional engineering offices to ensure effective service delivery, streamlined operations, and enhanced project management.

This bill seeks to establish the DPWH Tarlac Third District Engineering Office, which will exclusively serve the ten (10) municipalities comprising the First Legislative District of Tarlac: Anao, Camiling, Mayantoc, Moncada, Paniqui, Pura, Ramos, San Clemente, San Manuel, and Santa Ignacia. These municipalities span a vast land area and support a combined population that exceeds the minimum requirements set by the DPWH for the creation of a new district office.

The First District of Tarlac easily meets and even surpasses the thresholds set by DPWH Department Order No. 110, Series of 2016, entitled "Guidelines on the Creation and Classification/Reclassification of District Engineering Offices (DEOs). Based on the latest data the 10 municipalities of the First Legislative District of Tarlac has an aggregate national road coverage exceeding 100 kilometers. Moreover, it spans well over 100 square kilometers in total land area. It supports a population of over 300,000 residents, distributed across eight municipalities. These figures demonstrate that the First Legislative District of Tarlac has not only met but exceeded the technical and demographic standards set forth in the 2016 guidelines.

The same Department Order further provides that the classification of the new DEO—whether 1st, 2nd, or 3rd class—shall depend on the equivalent road length under its jurisdiction. This classification determines the level of budgetary allocation and the number of personnel to be assigned, thereby ensuring efficient operations proportional to the workload and project volume of the district.

By creating a dedicated DEO in the First District, this measure will:

- a. Decentralize and decongest the current engineering office;

- b. Improve the timeliness, oversight, and quality of infrastructure projects;
- c. Foster better coordination with local government units;
- d. Enhance planning and execution of district-specific development programs.

The establishment of the DPWH Tarlac Third District Engineering Office is not only justified by technical standards but also by the strategic imperative of delivering more responsive, inclusive, and efficient public service to the people of the First Legislative District of Tarlac.

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



**JAIME EDUARDO MARC D. COJUANGCO**  
Representative, 1<sup>st</sup> District, Tarlac

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

**Section 1.** A new district engineering office of the Department of Public Works and Highways is hereby created in the Province of Tarlac which shall be known as the Tarlac Third District Engineering Office.

**Section 2.** The Tarlac Third District Engineering Office shall be located in the Municipality of Camiling and shall serve all the barangays in the municipalities of Anao, Camiling, Mayantoc, Moncada, Paniqui, Pura, Ramos, San Clemente, San Manuel and Santa Ignacia, all located in the First Legislative District of Tarlac.

**Section 3.** The Secretary of Public Works and Highways shall include in the Department's program the operationalization of Tarlac Third District Engineering Offices, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**Section 4.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*