

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2729**



Introduced by Representative Dibu S. Tuan

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution, under Article II thereof, mandates that

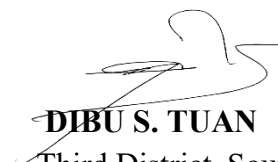
“Sec. 21. The State shall promote comprehensive rural development and agrarian reform.

“Sec. 22. The State recognizes and promotes the rights of indigenous cultural communities within the framework of national unity and development.”

This bill seeks to establish a new District Engineering Office in the Province of South Cotabato to be named as the Third District Engineering Office under the Department of Public Works and Highways. It will be responsible for all DPWH activities in the Third Legislative District covering the municipalities of Lake Sebu, Norala, Santo Nino, Surallah and T’boli. Up to the present, all public works initiatives for the said constituent municipalities of the Third Legislative District emanate from a district engineering office located at the Second Legislative District of the province.

The Third Legislative District is a newly-created district by virtue of Republic Act No. 11992, only last March 21, 2024. Populated mostly by indigenous people and a mix ratio of Muslims and Christians, it is a community that has suffered from years of neglect from the national government.

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


DIBU S. TUAN
Third District, South Cotabato

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**AN ACT CREATING A DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE IN THE THIRD
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF SOUTH COTABATO, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. A District Engineering Office of the Department of Public Works and Highways is hereby created in the Third Legislative District, Province of South Cotabato, to be located in the Municipality of _____, and referred to as the South Cotabato Third District Engineering Office.

SEC. 2. The South Cotabato Third District Engineering Office shall serve the municipalities of Lake Sebu, Norala, Santo Nino, Surallah and T'boli, all located in the Third Legislative District of the Province of South Cotabato.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of Public Works and Highways shall include in the Department's program the operationalization of the South Cotabato Third District Engineering Office, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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

Approved,