

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3001**



Introduced by Representative Richard I. Gomez, DPA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill mirrors the same bill approved on third reading in the 19th Congress of the House of Representatives, transmitted to the Senate and subsequently deliberated on in February 2025.

Retired Judge Benjamin “Ben” Torres Pongos, Sr. was a distinguished public servant and a true Ormocanon, who belonged to long lineages of politicians in Ormoc City. His father, Dr. Wenceslao Sabino Pongos, one of Ormoc’s first practicing physicians, also served as one of the City’s earliest mayors. “Judge Ben,” as how Ormocanons fondly called him, had a long and distinguished career in public service, in which he devoted much of his life.

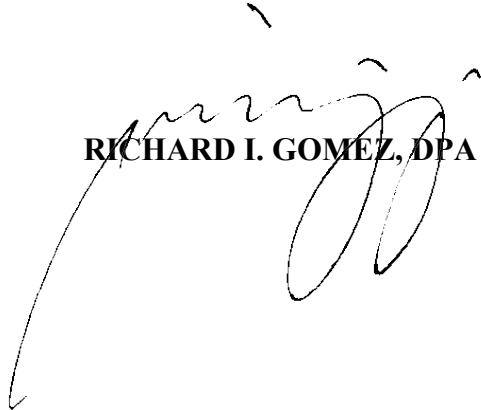
As a politician, he served as a member of the Municipal Board of Ormoc (the equivalent of a city councilor) for two terms from 1960-67. As Municipal Board of Ormoc member, some of the notable pieces of legislation he passed included ordinances with strong cultural significance, such as regulations for fiestas, cockpits, sale of liquor within the city, and more.

Thereafter, as a lawyer who graduated from the University of Sto. Tomas Law School in Manila, he was appointed presiding municipal judge of Albura, Leyte. Throughout his long career as a magistrate, he was able to serve in different places in the country, namely: Makati City; Cebu City, and lastly, as the presiding judge of a branch of the Regional Trial Court in Tacloban City, where he eventually retired in the late 1980s. He retired from the judiciary with a stellar record,

unblemished by any accusations of dishonest or corrupt acts. He had a reputation for being a no-nonsense judge, upholding honesty and integrity at the highest level.

He was also a prolific farmer of sugarcane, rice, coconut, poultry, and fruit trees. He was very active in Ormoc community activities and was a member of various local organizations such as the Rotary Club of Ormoc, the Unifarm Farmers Cooperative, the Couples for Christ and others. Because Judge Benjamin Pongos was an exemplary Ormocanon, it is with pride that one of the new roads should be named in his honor.

In view of the foregoing, the early approval of this measure is earnestly sought.



RICHARD I. GOMEZ, DPA

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AN ACT
NAMING THE ROAD FROM BARANGAY EAST, JUNCTION OF ORMOC –
ALBUERA DIVERSION ROAD, THROUGH BARANGAY NORTH, RIZAL
EXTENSION ROAD, UP TO BARANGAY DONGHOL, ORMOC-LAKE IMELDA
ROAD, WHICH IS ALSO REFERRED TO BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AS THE ORMOC-LAKE IMELDA NATIONAL
TERTIARY ROAD, IN THE CITY OF ORMOC, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, AS THE
JUDGE BENJAMIN PONGOS AVENUE

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

SECTION 1. The road from Barangay East, junction of Ormoc – Albueria Diversion Road, through Barangay North, Rizal Extension Road, up to Barangay Donghol, Ormoc-Lake Imelda Road, which is also referred to by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) as the Ormoc-Lake Imelda National Tertiary Road, in the City of Ormoc, Province of Leyte, is hereby named as the Judge Benjamin Pongos Avenue.

SEC. 2. The Department of Public Works and Highways shall issue the necessary rules, orders, and circulars to implement this Act within thirty (30) days from its effectivity.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,