



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4850



INTRODUCED BY: HON. STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Pan-Philippine Highway, also known as the Maharlika Highway, is a network of roads, bridges, and ferry services forming the primary north-south transportation backbone of the Philippines, connecting the islands of Luzon, Samar, Leyte, and Mindanao. Stretching over 3,300 kilometers, it is the longest highway in the country and serves as a crucial route for economic and social development, linking major cities and allowing access to various landscapes and tourist destinations.¹

However, due to several factors, sections of the Maharlika Highway have fallen to disrepair. This is the current reality in the Province of Samar, wherein of the highway's total stretch of 395.52 km in Eastern Visayas, 205.75 km traverse Samar province.² In fact, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has highlighted this issue and assured the immediate repair of damaged sections of the primary highway in Samar province with the allocation of PHP1.4 billion. This allocation announced by the President will finance road reconstruction, road and bridge widening, slope protection, off-carriageway improvements, drainage system, and the installation of road signs and pavement markings.³

Foregoing considered, this legislative measure not only aims to rectify the current state of the Maharlika Highway located in the Province of Samar but also further support the pledges and programs of the President. Hence, the passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.

HON. STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN
Representative, First District of Samar



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4850

INTRODUCED BY HON. STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING SAMAR CULTURAL AND HERITAGE PROGRAM, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. Title. This Act shall be known as the “Samar Island Infrastructure Act.”

SECTION 2. Samar Island Infrastructure Plan. The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall formulate and implement a master plan which shall prioritize not only the rehabilitation, improvement, maintenance, repair of the existing segments of the National Highway located in the Samar Island, particularly those located in the Province of Samar, but also the construction and development of future segments, including the maintenance and improvement thereof.

SECTION 3. Submission to Congress. Every quarter after the enactment of this Act, the DPWH shall submit to Congress, progress reports on the formulation of the Master Plan until its final approval. In the same manner, Congress shall be notified of any proposed amendments to the approved Master Plan.

SECTION 4. Joint Oversight Committee. A Congressional Oversight Committee (Committee) is hereby created to monitor and oversee the implementation of this Act.

The Committee shall be composed of six (6) members from the Senate and six (6) members from the House of Representatives. The Committee shall be headed by the Chairperson of the Senate Committee of Public Works, and the Chairperson of the House Committee of Public Works and Highways. The other members of the Committee shall be designated by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House, respectively. The Minority shall have at least two (2) representatives from both chambers.

SECTION 5. Appropriations. The initial funding requirements for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against existing appropriations of the Board and such other appropriate funding sources as the Department of Budget and Management may identify, subject to relevant laws, rules and regulations. Thereafter, such amounts as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. Within sixty (60) days from the promulgation of this Act, the Department of Public Works and Highways, in consultation with the affected local government units, shall issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act.

SECTION 7. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, all other remaining provisions not otherwise affected shall remain effective.

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause. All other laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended, accordingly.

SECTION 9. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,