



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **4950**



Introduced by Representative **MARCELINO C. LIBANAN**

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BRIDGE OR
UNDERSEA TUNNEL LINKING THE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN
LEYTE AND THE PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The geographical separation between the islands of Leyte and Mindanao has long posed significant challenges to the seamless movement of people, goods, and services. The Surigao Strait, which separates the Province of Southern Leyte in the Visayas from the Province of Surigao del Norte in Mindanao, serves as a natural barrier to full economic integration of the Visayas and Mindanao regions.

Currently, the transportation link between these provinces is heavily reliant on ferries operating between Liloan, Southern Leyte, and Surigao City. These services are vulnerable to weather disruptions, capacity limitations, and delays, thereby hampering the free flow of commerce and travel.

The construction of a permanent land link—whether through a long-span bridge or an undersea tunnel—between Southern Leyte and Surigao del Norte will transform the movement of people, goods, and services in the Visayas and Mindanao. This connection will:

- Provide a direct, safe, and reliable passage
- Boost trade, stimulate local economies, and enhance business competitiveness;
- Strengthen national and regional tourism by creating a vital gateway for travel between the Visayas and Mindanao;

- Reduce dependence on maritime transport prone to risks during typhoons and inclement weather, thereby improving safety and resilience;
- Facilitate faster disaster response, strengthen national defense mobility, and ensure greater territorial cohesion.

Most importantly, this infrastructure will physically unite the Visayas and Mindanao in the same way the San Juanico Bridge connected Leyte and Samar. It will serve as a symbol of national integration and as a strategic investment in the country's long-term development and unity.

This initiative will serve as a vital complement to the proposed House Bill No. 4589 or also known as the Luzon-Visayas Bridge, ultimately strengthening connectivity across the Philippines' major islands.

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



MARCELINO C. LIBANAN

Representative
4Ps Partylist



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

SECTION 1. There shall be constructed under the supervision of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) an undersea tunnel or bridge, from the Province of Southern Leyte to the Province of Surigao, including access roads thereto.

SECTION 2. The funding for the feasibility study and engineering design shall be included in the General Appropriations Act (GAA), and shall be undertaken by a qualified international consulting firm with proven experience in similar long-span bridge or undersea tunnel projects. To uphold the quality, credibility, and global competitiveness of the outputs, the study should be financed through grant funding or technical assistance from development partners. Thereafter, the Secretary of the DPWH shall include in the Department's program the construction of said undersea tunnel or bridge, the funding of which shall be included in the annual GAA.

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

Approved,