

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5388



Introduced by Representative ERIC G. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to convert the Ballay-Tawangan-Lusod Farm-to-Market Road (FMR) in the Municipality of Kabayan, Province of Benguet, into a National Road. Converting the said FMR into a National Road will strengthen agricultural trade, improve the transport of goods and services, and promote interconnectivity with neighboring provinces. It will likewise contribute to the growth of the local tourism industry by providing safer, more efficient, and more accessible routes for both domestic and foreign visitors.

Article XII, Section 6 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that:

"SECTION 6. The use of property bears a social function, and all economic agents shall contribute to the common good. Individuals and private groups, including corporations, cooperatives, and similar collective organizations, shall have the right to own, establish, and operate economic enterprises, subject to the duty of the State to promote distributive justice and to intervene when the common good so demands."

This proposed measure plays a vital role in realizing this mandate by improving access to markets, trade, social services, and opportunities for development.

The Municipality of Kabayan in the Province of Benguet is primarily an agricultural community, with farming and local trade serving as the backbone of its economy. The Ballay-Tawangan-Lusod FMR serves as a major route that links communities within Kabayan and connects the province to the adjoining provinces of Ifugao and Nueva Vizcaya. This road does not only facilitate the transport of agricultural produce but also serves as a passageway for residents, students, and tourists traveling within and outside the municipality.

At present, however, the Ballay-Tawangan-Lusod FMR remains underdeveloped and is classified merely as a local road. As such, its maintenance and improvement are heavily dependent on limited local government resources, resulting in poor road conditions that hamper mobility, restrict trade, and limit access to education, healthcare, and other essential services.

The necessity of filing this bill lies in the urgent need to provide a reliable, sustainable, and nationally funded road system that will address the socio-economic limitations brought by poor infrastructure. Road development is not only an economic imperative but also a social obligation to ensure equitable access to opportunities and services for rural communities.

The conversion of the Ballay-Tawangan-Lusod FMR into a National Road will catalyze socio-economic development, enhance regional interconnectivity, and support the government's inclusive growth agenda. It will uplift the quality of life of the people in Kabayan and the entire Province of Benguet while contributing to the overall progress of the Cordillera Administrative Region.

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



HON. ERIC G. YAP

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AN ACT
CONVERTING THE BALLAY - TAWANGAN - LUSOD FARM TO MARKET
ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KABAYAN, PROVINCE OF BENGUET INTO
A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

Section 1. The Ballay - Tawangan - Lusod Farm to Market Road in the Municipality of Kabayan, Province of Benguet, is hereby converted into a national road.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of Public Works and Highways shall include in the Department's program the improvement, repair, and maintenance of said roads, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

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,