

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **6482**



Introduced by Representative ERIC G. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to abolish the Baguio-Bontoc Halsema Highway National Toll Road and permanently terminate the collection of toll fees along the said highway, ensuring free and unhampered passage for motorists, commuters, and the transport of goods across the Cordillera.

The Baguio-Bontoc Halsema Highway serves as the primary intermunicipal road connecting the provinces of Benguet, Mountain Province, and other parts of the Cordillera Administrative Region. As an essential national highway, it sustains daily economic activity, supports the transport of agricultural products from upland farming communities, and facilitates access to education, healthcare, and public services for thousands of Cordillerans who rely on this road.

Despite its classification as a national road, the collection of toll fees has long imposed an additional financial burden on residents, traders, and public transport operators who regularly traverse the highway. Concerns have also been raised over the outdated legal basis for toll collection, the absence of a modern tolling framework, and the lack of clear justification for maintaining a toll system on a highway whose maintenance is already funded through the national budget. The Halsema Highway receives annual appropriations for rehabilitation and upkeep under the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), consistent with its character as a public utility highway.

While the collection of toll fees has been temporarily suspended, this suspension remains purely administrative and may be lifted at any time. Without legislative action, the authority to resume toll collection still exists. It is therefore necessary to abolish the toll road designation itself to provide permanent relief and to eliminate any remaining outdated legal provisions that allow toll operations.

With this measure, the public can freely use the highway without undue cost, and the road's status will finally be aligned with current national policies governing essential public roadways.

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

HON. ERIC G. YAP

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AN ACT
ABOLISHING THE BAGUIO-BONTOC HALSEMA HIGHWAY NATIONAL
TOLL ROAD AND TERMINATING COLLECTION OF TOLL FEES THERETO

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as “The Abolition of the Baguio-Bontoc Halsema Highway National Toll Road.”

SEC. 2. *Abolition of the Baguio-Bontoc Halsema Highway National Toll Road.* - The Baguio-Bontoc Halsema Highway National Toll Road is hereby abolished and the collection of toll fees thereto is hereby terminated.

SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, executive orders, decrees, instructions, rules and regulations that created the Baguio-Bontoc Halsema Highway National Toll Road or that have something to do with its creation, operation and collection of toll fees thereto is/are hereby repealed and the collection of toll fees thereto is terminated.

SEC. 4. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,