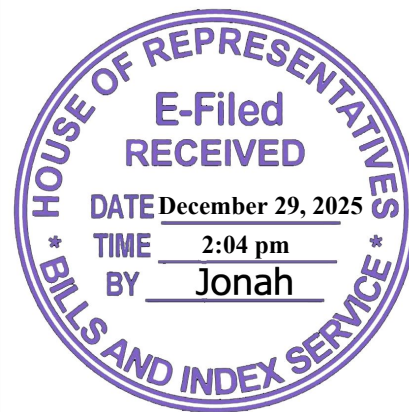




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7029



**Introduced by Representatives Antonio “Tonypet” T. Albano,
Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay, Niko Raul S.J. Daza, Rufus B. Rodriguez, and
Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Santiago – Tuguegarao Road, a major national primary road traversing the provinces of Isabela, Kalinga, and Cagayan, serves as a vital artery connecting the cities of Santiago and Tuguegarao. Designated as National Route 51 (N51), this road plays a crucial role in the socio-economic development of the Cagayan Valley Region.

This bill seeks to honor the legacy of the late Senator Heherson “Sonny” Turingan Alvarez – widely known as “Mr. Environment” – by renaming the Santiago – Tuguegarao Road as the Senator Heherson T. Alvarez National Road. Born in Santiago City, Isabela, Senator Alvarez is also a proud member of the Ybanag and Gaddang indigenous tribes, a true *Dayao ti Amianan* (Son of the North). He was a distinguished statesman, freedom fighter, and environmental advocate whose lifelong work advanced democracy, sustainable development, and public welfare.

Senator Alvarez was a scholar and leader of exceptional ability. He obtained his Master’s Degree in Economics and Public Administration from Harvard University and was a recipient of the Outstanding Alumnus Award from the University of the Philippines. In 1972, he was recognized as one of the Ten Most Outstanding Leaders of the North, alongside such figures as Gen. Carlos P. Romulo of Tarlac and Quintin Paredes of Abra.

He was one of the delegates to the 1971 Constitutional Convention, one of the few who opposed the 1972 Constitution and was forced into exile, wherein he lobbied the restoration of basic civil rights and democratic processes in the Philippines. He later became Ambassador Extraordinary Plenipotentiary to the United States in 1986, representing the country during a pivotal period of renewed democracy.

In his desire to come home to his motherland, Alvarez became Secretary of Agrarian Reform in 1986 and went on to serve two full terms in the Senate,

where he chaired both the Blue Ribbon Committee and the Committee on Environment. In 1998, he was elected as a Member of the House of Representatives. He also served as Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). As DENR Secretary, he championed the rights of fisherfolk, most notably through DENR Administrative Order No. 2001-17, which strengthened their access to marine resources and livelihood protection. In addition, Senator Alvarez was appointed Presidential Adviser for Overseas Filipino Communities and later served as Commissioner of the Climate Change Commission, where he continued his advocacy for sustainable development and climate resilience on a national and international scale.

Throughout his legislative and executive career, Senator Alvarez consistently championed human rights, democracy, economic reform, and environmental protection. He was at the forefront of the movement that introduced unleaded gasoline to the Philippines through the “healthy Air Pact”, signed with major oil companies under the Ramos administration. This initiative laid the foundation for the passage of the Clean Air Act. He likewise advocated measures such as the Ecological Solid Waste management Act, the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA), the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), and the law creating the Department of Energy, which was instrumental in resolving the nationwide power crisis of the early 1990s.

Senator Alvarez’s legislative portfolio demonstrates his visionary foresight, as he crafted policies that were ahead of his time and remain worthy of emulation today. He also founded the Earth Savers Movement and played a key role in the resolution declaring April 22 as “Earth Day” in the Philippines. His work earned him national and international recognition, including being named Outstanding Senator multiple times by media organizations; being awarded the Gusi Peace Prize for Public Service by the Gusi Peace Prize Foundation; and becoming the first Asian to receive the Outstanding Public Policy Achievement Award from the Washington-based Climate Institute. His dedication to climate and environmental protection left a strong impression on Climate Institute President John Topping Jr. In fact, in a 2009 remark, Topping noted that *“Heherson Alvarez is not the Al Gore of the Philippines. Al Gore is the Alvarez of the world.”*

His role as a statesman and his willingness to hold those in power accountable—even when it meant opposing personal or political relationships—demonstrated unflinching integrity. As a key figure in high-stakes moments and other pivotal crises in the latter part of 20th century Philippine political history, he stood firm for accountability and the rule of law.

This earned him a reputation as a firebrand of the Senate: a leader whose convictions were not swayed by expedience but anchored in truth, transparency, and public trust.

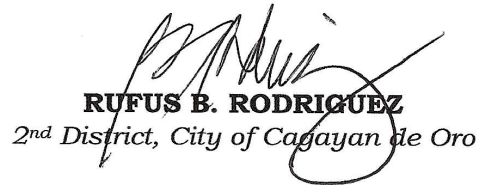
Renaming the Santiago – Tuguegarao Road after Senator Alvarez is a fitting tribute to a man whose life was devoted to principled public service, environmental stewardship, and the defense of democracy. His integrity and public service life should serve as a model from which current and future leaders shall emulate, a lasting reminder of his contributions to the nation and the values he so firmly upheld.

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


ANTONIO "TONYPET" T. ALBANO
1st District, Isabela


MILAGROS AQUINO-MAGSAYSAY
United Senior Citizens Partylist


NIKO RAUL S.J. DAZA
1st District, Northern Samar


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ
2nd District, City of Cagayan de Oro


**RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C.
MENDOZA**
TUCP Partylist



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HOUSE BILL NO. **7029**

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AN ACT
RENAMING THE SANTIAGO-TUGUEGARAO ROAD TO
SENATOR HEHERSON T. ALVAREZ NATIONAL ROAD

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

1 **SECTION 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the
2 Heherson T. Alvarez National Road Act.

3 **SEC. 2. Renaming the Road.** – The national road currently known as
4 the Santiago-Tuguegarao Road (National Route 51), which traverses the
5 provinces of Isabela, Kalinga, and Cagayan, is hereby renamed to
6 Senator Heherson T. Alvarez National Road.

7 **SEC. 3. Signage and Implementation.** – The Department of Public
8 Works and Highways (DPWH) shall issue the necessary orders and implement
9 appropriate measures to install signage reflecting the new name of the road.
10 The DPWH shall coordinate with the concerned Local Government Units to
11 ensure the proper dissemination and implementation of this Act.

1 **SEC. 4. *Funding.*** – The amount necessary for the implementation of this
2 Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the DPWH under the current
3 General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its
4 continued implementation shall be included in the annual General
5 Appropriations Act.

6 **SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.*** – Any portion or provision of this Act
7 which may be declared unconstitutional or invalid shall not affect the other
8 portions or provisions hereof.

9 **SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.*** – All other laws, ordinances, rules,
10 regulations and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with
11 this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

12 **SEC. 7. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall effect fifteen (15) days after its
13 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
14 circulation.

Approved,