

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7974



Introduced by

REP. KAKA BAG-AO (LONE DISTRICT, DINAGAT ISLANDS)
REP. JOSE MANUEL TADEO "CHEL" I. DIOKNO (AKBAYAN PARTY-LIST)
REP. PERCIVAL V. CENDAÑA (AKBAYAN PARTY-LIST)
REP. DADAH KIRAM ISMULA (AKBAYAN PARTY-LIST)
REP. SERGIO C. DAGOOC (APEC PARTY-LIST)
REP. ROMEO S. MOMO SR. (1st DISTRICT, SURIGAO DEL NORTE)

AN ACT

CONVERTING THE ROAD STRETCH COMMENCING FROM BOJO AREA, BARANGAY CARMEN, TO SITIO CAMPINTAC, BARANGAY PANAMAON IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LORETO, PROVINCE OF DINAGAT ISLANDS, INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to convert the **20-kilometer road stretch**—extending from the Bojo Area in Barangay Carmen to Sitio Campintac in Barangay Panamaon, Municipality of Loreto, Province of Dinagat Islands—into a **national road**, providing for the appropriation of funds for its sustained maintenance, repair, and improvement.

Strategic Importance and Economic Impact

The **Bojo-Campintac road** serves as a vital artery for the Municipality of Loreto. Currently, the local government unit (LGU) bears the heavy financial burden of maintaining this rugged terrain. Converting this into a national road under the jurisdiction of the **Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)** ensures a consistent budget for high-quality infrastructure.

The impact of this conversion is threefold:

- **Agricultural Productivity:** Loreto relies heavily on coconut and root crop production. Improved road conditions reduce post-harvest losses and transportation costs for farmers who currently navigate challenging terrain to reach the municipal port.
- **Tourism Development:** The Dinagat Islands are increasingly recognized as a "hidden gem" in the Caraga Region. Improving access to peripheral barangays like Panamaon is essential for the growth of eco-tourism, directly correlating with a projected increase in local employment.
- **Public Safety and Connectivity:** National road standards ensure wider lanes and better drainage, which are critical for disaster response and the safety of the navigating public during the typhoon season.

According to the **Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)**, the Caraga Region—where Dinagat is located—continues to face high poverty incidences among farmers (estimated at **31%** as of recent provincial profiles)¹. Infrastructure development is cited by the **Dinagat Islands Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plan**² as a primary driver for lowering poverty by connecting "Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas" (GIDA) to main trade hubs.

"The upgrading of local roads to national status is a strategic move to unburden municipal budgets, allowing the LGU to reallocate funds toward social services while ensuring the longevity of critical transport infrastructure."

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

¹ **Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)**. (2024). *Poverty Statistics for the Basic Sectors: Province of Dinagat Islands*.

² **Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)**. (2023). *Atlas of Road Data and Classification*. 3. **Provincial Government of Dinagat Islands**. (2022). *Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plan (2022-2030)*.



REP. KAKA BAG-AO

Lone District of Dinagat Islands



REP. JOSE MANUEL TADEO "CHEL" I. DIOKNO

AKBAYAN Party-list



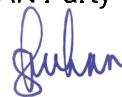
REP. SERGIO C. DAGOOC

APEC Party-List



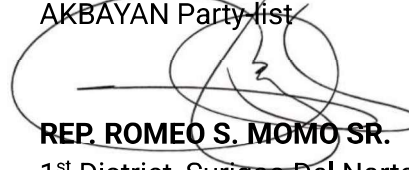
REP. PERCIVAL CENDAÑA

AKBAYAN Party-list



REP. DADAH KIRAM ISMULA

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

- 1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** — This Act shall be known as the "**Bojo-Campintac National Road**
2 **Act.**"
- 3 **SEC. 2. Conversion and Establishment.** — The road stretch spanning twenty (20)
4 kilometers, commencing from the **Bojo Area, Barangay Carmen**, and ending at **Sitio**
5 **Campintac, Barangay Panamaon**, in the Municipality of Loreto, Province of Dinagat
6 Islands, is hereby converted into a **National Road** under the jurisdiction of the Department
7 of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

1 **SEC. 3. Implementation and Appropriations.** — The Secretary of Public Works and
2 Highways shall immediately include in the Department’s program the improvement,
3 repair, and maintenance of the said road, the funding of which shall be included in the
4 annual **General Appropriations Act (GAA)**.

5 **SEC. 4. Separability Clause.** — If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
6 unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full
7 force and effect.

8 **SEC. 5. Repealing Clause.** — All laws, executive orders, decrees, instructions, rules, and
9 regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed
10 or amended accordingly.

11 **SEC. 6. Effectivity.** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
12 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,