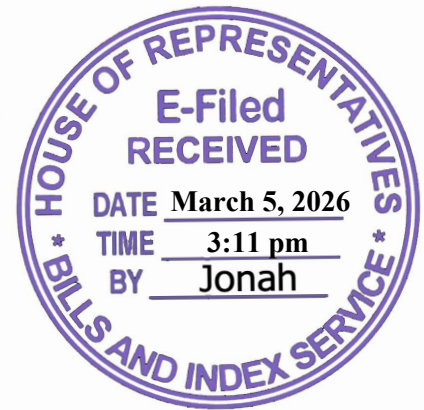


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8316



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ADRIAN MICHAEL A. AMATONG

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to convert the current provincial road, extending from Barangay Guban in the Municipality of Sirawai, Province of Zamboanga del Norte to Barangay Cayamcam in the Municipality of Tungawan, Province of Zamboanga Sibugay, into a national road, officially to be named as the "Sirawai-Tungawan Road."

For far too long, residents of remote municipalities in the Zamboanga Peninsula have faced hurdles in accessing opportunities for growth and development. According to the Zamboanga Regional Development Plan for 2023-2028, the Municipality of Tungawan is regarded as an "undeveloped potential resource for tourism and trade." The same report also recognized the Municipality of Sirawai as being endowed with abundant natural resources, making it suitable for the production of agricultural commodities and fishery resources. Despite having huge potential to be "provincial growth centers," these two areas are still among the most economically-depressed areas in the Zamboanga Peninsula. To help these municipalities attain their fullest potential, the study recommended the implementation of initiatives aimed at "facilitating the free movement of people, goods, and services" and improving common infrastructure.

Elevating the status of the Sirawai-Tungawan Provincial Road to that of a national road would play a pivotal role in linking the Provinces of Zamboanga del Norte and Zamboanga Sibugay and contributing to their economic growth, as these will ensure the road's continued maintenance and improvement with regular funding from the national government. This upgrade would serve as a lifeline for the far-flung communities it traverses, facilitating the movement of people, goods, and services. Further, the necessity of this conversion was highlighted by the Department of Public Works and Highways' designation of the road as one of its "high-impact projects" in 2021. With an allocation of P1.23 billion for all projects, the agency conducted comprehensive assessments and traffic impact analysis to identify possible improvements for this provincial road.

In essence, this bill is not merely about infrastructure development; it is about empowering communities and driving economic progress for all. It embodies our collective responsibility to ensure that all of our constituents, regardless of their geographical location, can access social and economic benefits.

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


ADRIAN MICHAEL A. AMATONG

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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HOUSE BILL NO. 8316

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ADRIAN MICHAEL A. AMATONG

AN ACT
CONVERTING THE PROVINCIAL ROAD STRETCHING FROM BARANGAY
GUBAN, MUNICIPALITY OF SIRAWAI IN THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA
DEL NORTE TO BARANGAY CAYAMCAM, MUNICIPALITY OF TUNGAWAN
IN THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY INTO A NATIONAL ROAD,
TO BE KNOWN AS THE SIRAWAI-TUNGAWAN NATIONAL ROAD,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. The road stretching from Barangay Guban, Municipality of Sirawai in the Province of Zamboanga del Norte to Barangay Cayamcam, Municipality of Tungawan in the Province of Zamboanga Sibugay is hereby converted into a national road to be known as the Sirawai-Tungawan Road.

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

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,