



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City



TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 8382

Introduced by Representative Maria Angela S. Garcia

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This proposed measure seeks to convert the Morong–Mabayo Road, Corregidor–Morong Road, and UN Avenue in the Municipality of Morong, Province of Bataan into national roads under the supervision and management of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

Morong occupies a strategic position in the emerging Luzon Growth Corridor, linking Central Luzon, Subic Bay Freeport, and adjacent growth centers. However, critical road segments connecting Morong to Subic Bay, Mabayo, and surrounding development zones remain outside the national road network and are presently classified under varying jurisdictions—provincial, SBMA-administered, BCDA-administered, and in some portions, forestlands under the administrative management of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). This fragmented jurisdiction has constrained infrastructure upgrading, funding allocation, and long-term network integration.

The Morong–Mabayo Road, currently a provincial road, serves as a vital artery connecting agricultural communities, tourism establishments, fisherfolk settlements, and small enterprises to regional markets and national highways. Its conversion into a national road will ensure sustained funding support for improvement, widening, and maintenance under the national infrastructure program.

Similarly, the Corregidor–Morong Road, although situated within areas administered by the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), functions as a public access corridor connecting communities beyond ecozone boundaries. UN Avenue, located within areas under the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), likewise serves public transport and mobility functions extending beyond special development zones. The inclusion of these roads into the national road system will not diminish SBMA's or BCDA's fiscal, territorial, or regulatory authority within their respective chartered areas. Rather, this measure clarifies that road infrastructure

forming part of the public transport backbone shall fall under DPWH supervision to ensure consistency, integration, and accessibility.

Portions of these roads traverse lands classified as timberland or forestland under the administrative jurisdiction of the DENR. This measure does not seek to reclassify forestlands into alienable and disposable lands, consistent with constitutional limitations. Instead, it provides for the segregation or reservation of affected portions strictly for national road purposes, subject to existing environmental laws, permitting requirements, and the issuance of the necessary instruments by the DENR. Environmental safeguards, including the securing of Environmental Compliance Certificates (ECC) where required, shall remain mandatory for any future expansion or widening projects.

By integrating these road segments into the national road network, this measure advances:

- Improved connectivity between Morong, Subic Bay, and adjacent provinces;
- Strengthened tourism access and coastal economic activity;
- Enhanced mobility for fisherfolk, workers, students, and patients requiring access to regional hospitals;
- Infrastructure alignment with national development planning and logistics corridors; and
- Clear inter-agency delineation of road infrastructure management while preserving special economic and environmental mandates.

The conversion of these roads into national roads under DPWH will ensure sustained funding under the General Appropriations Act, standardized engineering oversight, and long-term infrastructure planning.

This measure harmonizes economic development, environmental stewardship, and institutional mandates, thereby promoting inclusive and sustainable growth for Morong and the Province of Bataan.

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


MARIA ANGELA S. GARCIA
Third District, Bataan



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**AN ACT CONVERTING THE
MORONG-MABAYO ROAD, CORREGIDOR-MORONG ROAD,
AND UN AVENUE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MORONG,
PROVINCE OF BATAAN INTO NATIONAL ROADS,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1 **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared the policy of the
2 State to strengthen national road connectivity, ensure unimpeded public access to
3 major transport corridors, and support the socio-economic development of the
4 Municipality of Morong and the Province of Bataan by integrating vital transport
5 arteries into the national road network under the Department of Public Works and
6 Highways (DPWH), while respecting existing land classifications and environmental
7 laws.

8
9 **SEC. 2. Conversion of Morong-Mabayo Road.** - The Morong-Mabayo Road
10 in Morong, Bataan, presently classified as a provincial road, is hereby converted into
11 a national road under the supervision of the DPWH.

12
13 **SEC. 3. Conversion and Transfer of Corregidor-Morong Road.** - The
14 Corregidor-Morong Road is hereby:

- 15
16 (a) Declared a national road;
17 (b) Excluded from the administrative control of the Subic Bay Metropolitan
18 Authority (SBMA) insofar as road ownership, control, and maintenance are
19 concerned; and
20 (c) Transferred to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) for
21 supervision, maintenance, and integration into the national road network.
22

23 Provided, that this exclusion shall apply strictly to road infrastructure and shall
24 not affect SBMA's territorial, fiscal, regulatory, or ecozone authority under its charter.
25

26 **SEC. 4. Conversion and Transfer of UN Avenue.** - UN Avenue in Morong,
27 Bataan is hereby:
28

- 29 (a) Declared a national road;
- 30 (b) Excluded from the administrative control of the Bases Conversion and
31 Development Authority (BCDA) insofar as road ownership and
32 maintenance are concerned; and
- 33 (c) Transferred to the DPWH for integration into the national road system.
34

35 Provided, that this exclusion shall not diminish BCDA's land ownership rights,
36 development authority, or contractual obligations within its special development areas.
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38 **SEC. 5. Timberland Segregation and DENR Coordination.** - In cases where
39 portions of the roads covered under this Act traverse timberland or forestland under
40 the administrative jurisdiction of the Department of Environment and Natural
41 Resources (DENR):
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- 43 (a) The affected portions are hereby declared as road right-of-way reservations
44 for national road purposes only;
- 45 (b) The DENR shall, within one hundred twenty (120) days from effectivity,
46 coordinate with the DPWH for the segregation, delineation, and issuance
47 of appropriate instruments recognizing such road reservations;
- 48 (c) Such segregation shall not automatically reclassify the land from forestland
49 to alienable and disposable land, but shall allow its use strictly for road
50 infrastructure purposes;
- 51 (d) Any future widening or expansion affecting forestlands shall remain subject
52 to existing environmental laws, including the requirement of Environmental
53 Compliance Certificates (ECC) and other necessary permits.
54

55 **SEC. 6. Inventory and Turnover.** - Within one hundred twenty (120) days from
56 effectivity, SBMA, BCDA, DENR, the Provincial Government of Bataan, and the
57 Municipality of Morong shall jointly coordinate with DPWH for:
58

- 59 1. Technical inventory and condition assessment;
- 60 2. Right-of-way verification;
- 61 3. Official turnover of road infrastructure;
- 62 4. Updating of cadastral and land classification records where necessary.
63

64 **SEC. 7. Funding.** - The Secretary of Public Works and Highways shall include
65 in the Department's program the improvement, rehabilitation, and maintenance of the
66 roads covered under this Act. Funding shall be included in the annual General
67 Appropriations Act.
68

69 **SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The DPWH, in coordination
70 with SBMA, BCDA, DENR, the Provincial Government of Bataan, and the Municipality

of Morong, shall issue the necessary Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) within ninety (90) days from effectivity.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.