



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

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 8556

Introduced by Representative John Geesnell "Baba" Yap

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to convert the Corella-Balilihan Provincial Road stretching from Barangay Poblacion, Municipality of Corella to Barangay del Carmen Sur, Municipality of Balilihan in the Province of Bohol, into a National Road.

The Corella-Balilihan Provincial Road is a 9.154-kilometer road that functions as a primary inter-municipal link and an important auxiliary route from the interior town of Balilihan to the provincial capital, Tagbilaran City. This road network connects directly to the Cortes-Balilihan-Catigbian-Macaas road and the Tagbilaran-Corella-Sikatuna-Loboc roads. Strategically located, it connects the first, second, and third legislative districts.

Also, the Corella-Balilihan Road is a vital thoroughfare for the 2,500 students studying at the Bohol Island State University and individuals going to the Congressional District Library, both located in Balilihan. Furthermore, the road provides shorter routes to vital tourism destinations in Bohol including the Philippine Tarsier Sanctuary, Kawasan Falls, and Malingin Falls.

Cognizant of the road's significance as a vital artery in the movement of people, services, and goods from interior barangays to the provincial capital, the Provincial Government of Bohol has earmarked 6.624 million pesos for the road's concrete pavement and slope protection project which began in early 2026. However, a more carefully-planned, effectively strategized reinforcement is needed to support its continuous upgrade, improvement, rehabilitation, and maintenance.

As a national road, the Corella-Balilihan Road becomes eligible for regular maintenance budgets, national road improvement programs, and disaster-recovery funds from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), reducing the fiscal burden on the Provincial Government of Bohol. It ensures the application of uniform engineering and maintenance standards and systematic upgrades to meet current traffic demands.

There was an effort during the 19th Congress to convert the Corella-Balilihan Road into a national road through House Bill No. 609 filed by then First Legislative District Representative Edgar M. Chatto. However, the result of the DPWH field validation and assessment on the proposed conversion came out unfavourably.

This representation reiterates the call to convert the Corella-Balilihan Road into a national road on the grounds of connectivity, economic benefit, safety, and fiscal efficiency.

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


JOHN GEESNELL “Baba” YAP



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AN ACT
CONVERTING THE CORELLA-BALILIHAN PROVINCIAL ROAD
STRETCHING FROM BARANGAY POBLACION, MUNICIPALITY OF
CORELLA TO BARANGAY DEL CARMEN SUR, MUNICIPALITY OF
BALILIHAN IN THE PROVINCE OF BOHOL INTO A 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 Corella-Balilihan provincial road stretching from Barangay Poblacion, Municipality of Corella to Barangay Del Carmen Sur, Municipality of Balilihan in the Province of Bohol, is hereby converted into a national road under the jurisdiction and supervision of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

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,