

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
4611
HOUSE BILL NO. _____



Introduced by Representatives ANA CRISTINA SIQUIAN-GO, ALLEN JESSE C. MANGAOANG, TEODORO G. MONTORO, RODOLFO T. ALBANO III, NAPOLEON S. DY, ARNEL U. TY, MA. LOURDES R. AGGABAO AND TEDDY BRAWNER BAGUILAT, JR.

AN ACT
CONVERTING THE ARELLANO TO CALANGUIGAN ROAD PORTION ALONG THE MALALAO NATIONAL ROAD (TABUK-QUEZON ROAD) STRETCHING FROM BARANGAY ARELLANO TO BARANGAY CALANGUIGA, ALL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF QUEZON, PROVINCE OF ISABELA INTO A NATIONAL ROAD, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Isabela-Kalinga Road connecting the two provinces through the Municipalities of Tabuk in Kalinga and Quezon in Isabela is a 15-kilometer road network which is divided to the Malalao Secondary National Road (Kalinga portion) and the Arellano-Calanguiga road (Isabela portion). The whole stretch spans the Kalinga-Cagayan National Road from the west and the Santiago-Tuguegarao National Road from the east. It is a continuous seamless stretch which links Kalinga and Isabela and its economic and civic centers. Through this thoroughfare, the agricultural products and labor markets of the two provinces are exchanged and traded for their mutual benefit.

The differing and dual nature of the same highway leaves not just an incongruity but a palpable hindrance to the linked communities of Tabuk and Quezon. From the Kalinga side, the Malalao National Road is well paved and maintained providing great comfort to the transporting public. From the Isabela side, however, the Arellano-Calanguigan Road, a stretch of almost seven and a half kilometers, is in a state of constant disrepair as it is dependent on the meager resources of the municipality of Quezon for its continuous rehabilitation and maintenance. As much as it is the closest and fastest link between the two provinces and the two national highways, the road's dual nature cannot be left to persist as the direct and appreciable effect of its improvement reverberates just to the two provinces but to the rest of the Cordilleras and Northern Luzon.

The urgent need for the standardization of the road's category is merited by the growing needs of the communities connected by this stretch. Both the abutting municipalities across the provincial borders are burgeoning communities and dynamic economic hubs. The conversion to national road of the remaining half of the Tabuk-Quezon Road will improve further the exchange of agricultural and commercial goods and the trade of services between the provinces of Kalinga and Isabela. If the Arellano-Calanguiga Road is finally converted to a national road like its Kalinga extension, it will be well-maintained and regularly paved affording the motorists and the traders fast and efficient thoroughfare to move goods and services from Isabela to Kalinga and back.

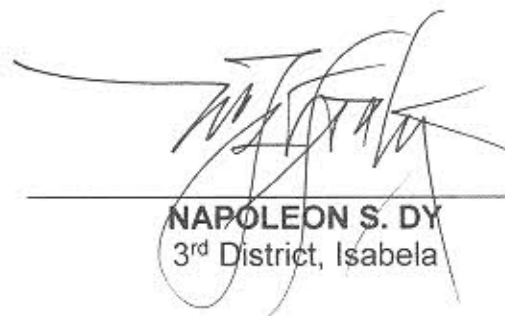
The conversion of Arellano-Calanguiga Road to a national road will also improve access to government and commercial establishments as a well-maintained road network will bring hospitals, churches, academic institutions and commercial establishments even closer to the people in need.

The Municipal Government of Quezon and even the Provincial Government of Isabela have budget constraints to provide the Arellano-Calanguiga Road the same level of periodic repairs and maintenance of its Kalinga counterpart. Just as significant, its conversion to a national road will result to savings in the budgets of the LGUs which they can now devote to more pressing poverty alleviation projects and other vital government programs for the barangays.

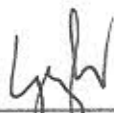
Hence, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly requested.



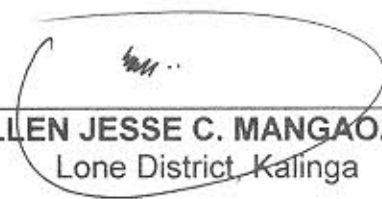
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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. The road stretching from Barangay Arellano to Barangay Calanguigan, all in the Municipality of Quezon, Province of Isabela along the Malalao National Road (Tabuk-Quezon Road) connecting Tabuk, Kalinga to the Municipality of Quezon, Isabela is hereby converted into a national road.

SECTION 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.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.