## Republic of the Philippines HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8655



Introduced by Representative Kristine Singson

## **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The proposed bill aims to convert the Candon-Santiago-San Esteban Coastal Road located in the province of Ilocos Sur into a national road.

With an approximate distance of 23.6 kilometers and a main thoroughfare that links the three local government units (LGUs), this road leads to well-known and newly declared tourist destinations in the province like Santiago Cove, Candon City Ecotourism Zone, and the local favorite, San Esteban Port. This road will also connect to national roads going to Sta. Maria Church, Pinsal Falls, the Heritage City of Vigan, the Shrine of Tirad Pass, and going to Mountain Province, and Baguio.

The Candon-Santiago-San Esteban Coastal Road is identified as a local road thus its development and maintenance falls into the responsibility of the three LGUs. But due to limited and low availability of funds in the local governments, the true potential of the road, including the tourism potential of the area, is underachieved. Road building and road improvements play a crucial part in development as it connects people and encourages trade and tourism. By transferring the responsibility of maintaining, repairing and improving the Candon-Santiago-San Esteban Coastal Road to the national government, the LGUs would be financially unburdened and could concentrate their funds in their socio-economic endeavors. It would boost tourism thereby uplifting the lives of the people not only in those LGUs but of the whole province. If this measure is approved, the people from these LGUs would also directly benefit from President Rodrigo R. Duterte's massive "BUILD BUILD BUILD" infrastructure program under the Department of Public Works and Highways.

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



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AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONVERTION OF THE CANDON-SANTIAGO-SAN ESTEBAN COASTAL ROAD, LOCATED IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

- SECTION 1. The Candon-Santiago-San Esteban Coastal Road in the Province of Ilocos Sur is hereby converted into a National Road.
- SEC. 2. The Department of Public Works and Highways shall issue the necessary rules, orders, and circulars to implement the provisions of this Act within sixty (60) days from its effectivity.
- 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,