

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**3117**  
**HOUSE BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_**



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**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE JOSE "PINGPING" I. TEJADA**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill which seeks to establish a new district engineering office in the Province of Cotabato was originally introduced as House Bill 5071 by the undersigned Jose "Pingping" I. Tejada in the Seventeenth (17<sup>th</sup>) Congress. It was promptly approved by the House of Representatives during the 1<sup>st</sup> Regular Session and thereafter transmitted to the Senate where it regretfully failed to pass due to lack of material time.


With Seventeen (17) Municipalities and One (1) City, the Province of Cotabato is presently being served by only two engineering district offices, this set-up has had tremendous effect on the delayed delivery of important public infrastructure programs and projects particularly in the six municipalities comprising the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional district.

The undersigned believes that all Department's/Agencies of the National Government should "reflect" and facilitate the full devolution of government services as provided for in the Local Government Code of 1991 and other related legal issuances. In the case of the Province of Cotabato which has two existing DEO's covering seventeen municipalities and one city, the creation of an additional DEO will provide a more geographical approach, as the expanse of the current geographical area of the existing DEO's are very wide. Thus, reflecting further devolution of government services.

Decades of conflict has slowed down the socioeconomic growth of many provinces in Mindanao—North Cotabato included—however, the tide has changed since the assumption of President Duterte, with the historic enactment of the Bangsamoro Organic Law, new corridors of economic and development opportunities has opened. With stable peace and order situation we could expect the opening of new roads connecting North Cotabato to other parts of Mindanao, it is hoped that in the next three years, conversion of new national road networks will take place, effectively increasing the current road length of existing DEO's including the proposed 3<sup>rd</sup> DEO. The creation of a third DEO in the Province of Cotabato will be an investment for the future, a worthy investment that will prove to be beneficial to all parties in the long run.

With the passage of this Bill, the Cotabato 3<sup>rd</sup> District Engineering Office will be able to provide a more integrated, comprehensive and quality public infrastructure and maintenance services in its area of coverage. Furthermore, the establishment of this DEO will reduce the coverage area of the other already existing DEO's thus, ensuring conscientious delivery of public infrastructure services in the Province of Cotabato.

Hence the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**JOSE "PINGPING" I. TEJADA**  
3<sup>rd</sup> District, Province of Cotabato

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING THE THIRD DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE IN THE PROVINCE OF COTABATO AND**  
**APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1 **Section 1.** There shall be established, under the supervision of the Department of Public  
2 Works and Highways, a third district engineering office in the Province of Cotabato to be known  
3 as the Cotabato Third District Engineering Office.  
4

5 **Section 2.** The said district engineering office shall comprise the municipalities of Baniisan,  
6 Carmen, Kabacan, Matalam, Mlang and Tulunan, all in the Third Congressional District of the  
7 Province of Cotabato.  
8

9 **Section 3.** The Secretary of Public Works and Highways shall include in the Department's  
10 program the operationalization of the Cotabato Third District Engineering Office, the funding of  
11 which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.  
12

13 **Section 5.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after completion of its publication in the  
14 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.  
15

16 Approved