

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

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**3123**  
**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 convert the Malapag, Carmen-Tinimbacan, Banisilan Provincial Road in the Province of Cotabato into a national road was filed by the undersigned representative Jose "Pingping" I. Tejada as House Bill 2108 in the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress.

The Municipalities of Carmen and Banisilan are situated adjacent to each other. Banisilan is the Northernmost Municipality of the Province of Cotabato bordering the Provinces of Lanao Del Sur and Bukidnon. Like most of the towns in the Province of Cotabato this municipality is predominantly agricultural with about 36.08% of its land or 20,826 hectares devoted to the production of rice, corn, coconut, mango, banana, rubber and other crops. Compared to other municipalities, Banisilan lags behind in terms of economic growth thus, the municipality is experiencing a relatively high poverty incidence coupled with a low literacy rate percentage which is aggravated by the inaccessibility to basic social services such as access to health services, higher educational institutions, means of agricultural production, among others. All these are conceivably due to the poor condition of the access road leading to the Municipality of Banisilan.

The Municipality of Carmen is likewise an agricultural area. Seventy Five percent (75%) of its total population depends on agricultural farming as their means/source of livelihood, 54,144 hectares or 48.76% of the land area is devoted to farming. Major products are corn, palay, mango, coconut, banana and rubber, unlike Banisilan, Carmen enjoys a fair economic climate.

At present, residents of Banisilan endures roughly six (6) hours travel time just to reach the Provincial Capitol at Amas, Kidapawan City via Wao-Bukidnon-Kidapawan route and 4 hours via the Kidapawan-Libungan-Alamada-Banisilan route, however this route hosts unfavourable geological conditions such as frequent landslides which poses immense threat to those plying this direction.

The conversion and development of the Malapag-Tinimbacan as an alternative main road will provide a shorter and safer route which will cut down travel time to two (2) hours from Banisilan going to the provincial capitol via Carmen thru the Sayre Highway (Cotabato-Bukidnon national Highway). The development of the same will enable a transport network that will provide efficient access to and from the Municipality of Banisilan bringing about numerous incremental benefits to the populace living in its corridor of influence.

By and large this is aimed to contribute to the socio-economic development of the Municipalities of Carmen and Banisilan; and the Province of Cotabato and the entire nation in general.

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 PROVIDING FOR THE CONVERSION OF THE MALAPAG, CARMEN-TINIMBACAN, BANISILAN PROVINCIAL ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF COTABATO INTO A NATIONAL ROAD, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

1 **Section 1.** The Malapag, Carmen-Tinimbacan, Banisilan Provincial Road is hereby  
2 converted into a national road under the supervision of the Department of Public Works and  
3 Highways.  
4

5 **Section 2.** The Secretary of Public Works and Highways shall immediately include in the  
6 Department's program the improvement, maintenance and repair of the said road, the  
7 funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.  
8

9 **Section 3.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after completion of its publication  
10 in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers in general circulation.  
11

12 Approved.