

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1096

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Introduced by HON. RONALD M. COSALAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill aims to give substance to the rural based development strategy by placing equity and distributive justice at par with economic productivity. The construction of barangay roads and multi-purpose pavements in barangays, especially in the provinces, is not only ideal, but likewise, beneficial to everyone. Cemented roads provide ease in the transportation of people and cargo. It hastens not only travel, but also communication, because barangays also become accessible to more and more people. Thus, development, even assistance, can reach rural barangays.

In far-flung areas, they provide farmers with needed marketing infrastructure that protect small farmers from crop losses due to lack of drying and storage facilities. Farmers will no longer be forced to sell their crops and produce to middlemen at a loss. During harvest season, half of national roads are utilized as drying surfaces for agricultural products like palay, corn, peanuts, mungo, copra, coffee and other agricultural crops that need drying under the sun.

In addition, pavements could also be used for community activities, like fiestas, athletic competitions, community meetings and consultations, and social gatherings for the youth and old alike. It also keeps the roads exclusively for vehicles, thus rural barangays are made safer because people and produce are kept on the sidewalks.

In short, barangay roads and multi-purpose pavements are necessary means for rural development.

Enactment of this bill into law is earnestly sought.


HON. RONALD M. COSALAN

Lone District, Benguet

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HOUSE BILL NO. 1096

Introduced by **HON. RONALD M. COSALAN**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF CONCRETE BARANGAY
ROADS/MULTIPURPOSE PAVEMENTS IN ALL BARANGAYS
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the national policy to provide concrete barangay roads/multipurpose pavements in all barangays in support of the implementation and promotion of comprehensive rural development and agrarian reform to accelerate the socio-economic-cultural development of the countryside.

SECTION 2. Concrete Barangay Roads/Multipurpose Pavements Program. – The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall undertake the construction of concrete barangay roads/multipurpose pavements in all barangays throughout the country: *Provided*, That any such construction is based on a program prepared by the DPWH in coordination with **MEMBERS OF CONGRESS** and the Municipal or City Development Council: *Provided, further*, That the barangay council shall assume full supervision and control of projects with a maximum length of 100 meters: *Provided, further*, That there concrete barangay roads/multipurpose pavements shall be located in the population center of the barangay; *Provided, further*, That based on a classification by population and area to be formulated by the DPWH, barangays shall be classified into small, which shall have a 100-meter road/pavement; medium, which shall have a 200-meter road/pavement; and large, which shall have a 300-meter road/pavement; and *Provided, finally*, That the municipal mayor and the barangay captain shall be furnished with pertinent documents, data and information before any construction can be commenced.

SECTION 3. *Construction Priority.* - In the construction of concrete barangay roads/multipurpose pavements, the DPWH shall give priority to barangays whose residents volunteer labor services in the construction thereof and for this purpose, issue guidelines and receive applications therefor: *Provided*, That the construction of the concrete barangay roads/multipurpose pavements shall be given the highest priority in economically depressed areas or in barangays in the rural areas: *Provided, further*, That each barangay shall have at least one concrete barangay road/multipurpose pavement: *Provided, finally*, That in barangays without any need for a concrete barangay road/multipurpose pavement, the allocation may be used for cementing the grounds of any public school, health center, multipurpose center, barangay hall or for barangay alleys.

SECTION 4. *Use of the Facility.*- There shall be no monopoly respecting the use of the concrete barangay roads/multipurpose pavements by any individual or association except in cases where the beneficial use thereof redounds to the benefit of the community.

For the purposes of this Act, the barangay council concerned is hereby authorized to issue such rules and regulations for the use of the facility to the end that an equitable and proportionate use thereof be made available among barangay residents/associations and to impose such minimal charges as may be necessary for the maintenance and normal repairs of said concrete barangay roads/multipurpose pavements.

SECTION 5. *Submission of Reports.* - Within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act, and at the end of every calendar quarter thereafter, the Secretary of Public Works and Highways shall submit progress reports to each House of Congress on the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Funding.* - The amount needed for the implementation of the construction of concrete barangay roads/multipurpose pavements in all barangays throughout the country shall be included in the appropriations of the DPWH under the General Appropriations Act: *Provided*, That funds for projects to be undertaken by the barangay council, under Section 2 hereof, shall be released by the DPWH to said council: *Provided, further*, That portions of amounts available from official foreign assistance and concessional loans that are unutilized in any given year shall be availed of by the President to augment the fund of the Department until this program is completed: *Provided, finally*, That these concrete barangay roads/multipurpose pavements shall be constructed in each barangay over a period of not more than five (5) years from the approval of this Act.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,