

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1342



Introduced by Hon. Mark O. Go

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide for the rehabilitation and maintenance of Kennon Road situated in the Province of Benguet under the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

Built in 1903, Kennon Road has the stretch of 33.534 kilometers connecting the City of Baguio down to the municipalities of Rosario and Pugo, La Union. It is also regarded as one of the oldest access roads going to Baguio City and its nearby municipalities. Given its shorter distance compared to the 50-kilometers Marcos Highway, motorists frequently use this road to and from Baguio City.

However, numerous cases of accidents caused by major landslides while traversing the Kennon Road have been reported. More often than not, authorities issue advisories closing the Kennon Road during heavy rains and typhoons for the safety of the commuters.

For years now, small rehabilitation and maintenance works are being laid down on Kennon Road for it to be passable. Due to the current "open-close" situation of Kennon Road, it is imperative that a full rehabilitation and maintenance be made to the said road. A thorough study must also be conducted to properly plan the extent of duration and rehabilitation of the said road. Such full rehabilitation and maintenance shall be under the supervision of DPWH transforming Kennon Road to an all-weather road. Furthermore, this will also address the influx of vehicular traffic during peak tourism season making it more accessible and convenient to all tourists sojourning Baguio City.

Hence, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


MARK O. GO

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**AN ACT MANDATING THE FULL REHABILITATION AND MAINTENANCE OF
KENNON ROAD UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND
HIGHWAYS**

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

SECTION 1. *The Project.*- The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall undertake the full rehabilitation of the 33.534-kilometer Kennon Road stretching from Rosario, La Union to Baguio City. Thereafter, the DPWH shall be responsible for the maintenance of Kennon Road, and ensure that it remains safe and optimally serviceable.

SEC. 2. *Evaluation and Assessment.* -The DPWH, in coordination with the Cordillera Regional Office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), shall evaluate and assess the current condition of Kennon Road to identify the necessary engineering works for the said road. Relative thereto, a feasibility study shall be conducted by the DPWH to primarily plan the extent and duration of the rehabilitation of Kennon Road into an "all weather" road.

SEC. 3. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary to cover the rehabilitation and maintenance of Kennon Road shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,