

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

**Eighteenth Congress**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 4439**



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**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ISAGANI S. AMATONG**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District of Zamboanga del Norte embraces almost 50% of the total 730,100 hectares land area of the province of Zamboanga del Norte. Of this vast area, 250 kilometers is assigned to the Labason-based 2<sup>nd</sup> District Engineering Office. This immense scope has caused logistical nightmares and intolerable delays in most of the public works projects undertaken in the southern part of the province, particularly in the Baliguian, Siocon, Sirawai, and Sibuco municipalities. Furthermore, the stiff and hilly terrain connecting Gutalac to Baliguian has rendered the four aforementioned municipalities inaccessible from the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Engineering Office, as heavy construction equipment from Labason has to be brought to Zamboanga City and shipped by sea to Siocon.

Thus, this bill seeks to establish a new District Engineering Office in the province of Zamboanga del Norte to be named as the Fourth District Engineering Office under the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH). It will be based in the Municipality of Siocon and will be responsible for all DPWH activities in the Municipalities of Baliguian, Siocon, Sirawai, and Sibuco.

In its July 2013 report, the Special Monitoring Team of the Regional Project Monitoring Committee Region IX described the western part of Zamboanga peninsula as "one of the most neglected areas of the region due to absence of a good road network." This is a significant factor that has contributed to the classification of Zamboanga del Norte as one of the top ten poorest provinces of the country. Establishing a new district engineering office will address not only the lack of road infrastructure projects, but also the problem of poverty in the province.

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

  
**ISAGANI S. AMATONG**

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**AN ACT CREATING A NEW DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE  
IN THE THIRD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT  
OF THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

**SECTION 1.** There shall be established an additional district engineering office under the supervision of the Department of Public Works and Highways in the Third Legislative District of the Province of Zamboanga del Norte. It shall be known as the Fourth District Engineering Office to be located in the Municipality of Siocon, Province of Zamboanga del Norte.

**SECTION 2.** The Fourth District Engineering Office shall serve the municipalities of Baliguian, Sirawai, Siocon, and Sibuco, all located in the Third Legislative District of the Province of Zamboanga del Norte.

**SECTION 3.** The Secretary of Public Works and Highways shall include in the Department's program the operationalization of the Fourth District Engineering Office in the Province of Zamboanga del Norte, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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

Approved,

