

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2328

Introduced by Honorable Samuel M. Dangwa

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It cannot be denied that the Municipality of La Trinidad, during the last ten years has grown by leaps and bounds. The riot of development taking place all over in this highland valley has tremendously increased commercial and industrial activities. Juxtaposed by the rapid increase of population as a result of the influx of people, not only from the Cordilleras but as far as those from Benguet's neighboring lowland provinces of Pangasinan, La Union and the Ilocos. . all in the interest of a better life has indeed made La Trinidad a cosmopolitan town.

Undoubtedly, however, the municipality's socio-economic growth has spawned problems in matters of litigation as there is an increase in the number of criminal cases filed. Likewise, interpersonal controversies as well as business related cases ripe for judicial determination continuously rise, resulting in backlog of cases.

Added to this, RA 7691 expanding the jurisdiction of both the Metropolitan Trial Courts and the Municipal Courts has further clogged the court's docket. There are close to a thousand cases, civil and criminal pending and the delay in the disposition of these cases is taking a toll in the litigants' everyday lives.

The current case load of the Municipal Trial Court of La Trinidad consisting of **Eight Hundred Forty Two (842) Criminal Cases and One Hundred Twenty Three (123) Civil Cases** or a total of **Nine Hundred Sixty Five (965) Cases** is simply too many for one court to hear and dispose of no matter how hard working the Presiding Judge will be.

While our constitution guarantees to every litigant the "right to speedy disposition of cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial and administrative bodies", this constitutional provision, however, could both be fully effected in the Municipality of La Trinidad. This problem in the delay of disposition of cases could best be addressed by establishing another Municipal Trial Court Branch in this part of the country, hence this bill.

Approval is, therefore, earnestly sought.


SAMUEL M. DANGWA

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AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT BRANCH IN THE MUNICIPALITY LA TRINIDAD, PROVINCE OF BENGUET, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 30 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980"

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in congress assembled;

SECTION 1. Section 30 of Batas Pambansa Bilang 129 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Municipal Trial Court - In each of the municipalities that are not comprised within a metropolitan area and a municipal circuit there shall be a Municipal Trial Court which shall have one branch, except as hereunder provided:

Two branches for San Fernando, La Union;

Four branches for Tuguegarao;

Three branches for Lallo, and two branches for Appari of Cagayan;

Two branches of Santiago, Isabela;

Two branches each for Malolos, Meycauayan and Bulacan, all of Bulacan Province;

Four branches for San Fernando and two branches for Guagua, both of Pampanga;

Two branches for Tarlac, Tarlac;

Two branches for San Pedro, Laguna;

Two branches for Sta. Rosa, Laguna;

Two branches each for Antipolo and Binangonan, both in Rizal; and

[Two branches for La Trinidad, Benguet]

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its approval.
Approved,