

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

First Regular Session
FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

House Bill No. 126

Introduced by Rep. Maria Carmen Zamora-Apsay

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The effective, swift and judicious dispensation of justice is one of the benchmarks of political modernization. Without it, chaos and anarchic elements will rule the day and plunge society into a jungle of lawlessness. The presence of formal structures to ensure the application of the rule of law among the populace, on the other hand, will most certainly deter the commission of unlawful acts and subordinate everyone to abide by the legal covenants of society.

In a country like the Philippines, the wheel of justice is often being seen to be moving at snail-pace. The need to create additional trial court branches in order to expedite the disposition of cases and improve the administration of justice, is widely considered as an effective antidote to the problem. More trial courts will mean declogging the sala of magistrates from too much cases and speeding up their resolution.

The case of Compostela Valley Province says it all. When it was created in 1998 from the then undivided Davao del Norte Province, the Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 3 based in the capital town of Nabunturan, was inevitably tasked to handle all cases coming from the new province's eleven municipalities. Not to mention its docket being clogged, the RTC sala is in the second legislative district—a geographical inconvenience for the municipalities comprising the first district. Hence, the need to create additional trial court branches for the judicial requirements of the first and second congressional districts has become imperative. This bill addresses this concern. Its approval is most respectfully requested.

It should be worth noting that this bill was approved on Third Reading during the 12th, 13th and 14th Congresses and was transmitted to the Senate but was stalled there. We are hopeful that it will finally become a law during the 15th Congress.


MARIA CARMEN ZAMORA-APSAY

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AN ACT
CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCHES IN
COMPOSTELA VALLEY PROVINCE TO BE LOCATED IN THE
MUNICIPALITIES OF COMPOSTELA AND MABINI, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE SECTION FOURTEEN (14) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 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 14 of Batas Pambansa Bilang 129 shall be amended as follows:

XXXXXXXX

1. (Twenty Nine) THIRTY ONE Regional Trial Court Judges shall be commissioned for the Eleventh Judicial Region. There shall be:

XXXXXXXX

THREE BRANCHES (BRANCHES IV TO VI) FOR THE PROVINCE OF COMPOSTELA VALLEY, BRANCH IV WITH SEAT AT NABUNTURAN, BRANCH V WITH SEAT AT COMPOSTELA AND BRANCH VI WITH SEAT AT MABINI

SEC. 2. All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations and other issuances, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,