

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2157

Introduced by: **Representative Karlo A. B. Nograles**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Bill seeks to establish one (1) additional branch of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) in Davao City to be designated by the Supreme Court as additional Family Court.

Section 2 of the Republic Act NO. 8369, otherwise known as the “*Family Courts Act of 1997*”, provides in part that “*The State recognizes the sanctity of family life and shall protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social institution. The courts shall preserve the solidarity of the family, provide procedure for the reconciliation of spouses and the amicable settlement of family controversy.*”

Section 3 of the same Act also provides that “*There shall be established a Family Court in every province and city in the country. In case where the city is the capital of the province, the Family Court shall be established in the municipality which has the highest population.*”

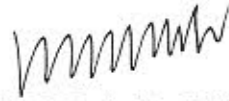
The result of the census in 2007 showed that among the provinces and cities in Region XI, Davao City has the highest average annual population growth rate with 2.41 percent. It has also crossed the million mark as it registered a total of 1, 363, 337 people or equivalent to 32.8 percent of the region’s total

population. With the rapid growth of population in Davao City, the number of juvenile and family cases has likewise increased.

Presently, Davao City has three (3) Regional Trial Courts (RTC) designated as Family Courts. These courts are loaded with numerous cases which clog the dockets thus making it difficult to resolve cases expeditiously.

The establishment of one (1) additional branch of Regional Trial Court as Family Court in Davao City will ease the burden of the courts and will certainly lead to a speedier resolution of juvenile and domestic relations cases.

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


KARLO A. B. NOGRALES

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AN ACT

ESTABLISHING ONE ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT AS FAMILY COURT IN THE CITY OF DAVAO, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE *BATAS PAMBANSA* BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "*THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980*," AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF.

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

SECTION 1. Section 14 of Batas Pambansa Bilang 129, otherwise known as "*The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980*," is hereby amended to read as follows:

*"Sec. 14. **Regional Trial Courts.**-*

(a) XXX

XXX

XXX

XXX

(1) [Forty-one] FORTY TWO Regional Trial Judges shall be commissioned for the Eleventh Judicial Region. There shall be:

XXX

XXX

XXX

XXX

[Sixteen] SEVENTEEN braches with seats thereat for the Province of Davao del Sur and the City of Davao, with seats at Davao Citty, Digos, Malita and Bansalan;

XXX

XXX

XXX

SECTION 2. The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriation for the Supreme Court. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,