

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

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2816

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE NANCY A. CATAMCO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

One of the guarantees of our Constitution is the right to a speedy disposition of cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative bodies. To address this guarantee, Batas Pambansa Blg. 129 otherwise known as the Judiciary Reorganization Act was enacted to, among others, allot the corresponding number of courts per judicial region based on exigencies existing at that particular time.

However, the increasing volume of cases that are filed courts, has unduly clogged the dockets of the courts and have thus caused the delay in the resolution of cases. To improve the administration of justice, it is submitted that the number of courts must be increased.

Particularly in Kidapawan, the lone city in the Province of North Cotabato, there is, as of the present, only one (1) Municipal Trial Court in Cities (MTCC). Being that it is only one, it is swamped with almost one thousand (1000) pending cases not to mention an average of thirty (30) cases being additionally filed per month. On the average, such a heavy case load of the lone MTCC of Kidapawan City is already equivalent to the case load of four (4) branches of Municipal Trial Courts or even two Regional Trial Courts. Certainly the speedy disposition of cases in the MTC of Kidapawan City is being compromised to the great disadvantage of the litigants therein. Thus, it is respectfully

submitted that there be created additional branches of the said court in Kidapawan City, North Cotabato.

This legislation seeks to further amend the provisions of Batas Pambansa Bilang 129 otherwise known as the Judiciary Reorganization Act and accordingly create two (2) additional branches of the Municipal Trial Court in the Twelfth (12th) Judicial Region to be stationed at Kidapawan City, Province of North Cotabato.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly requested by the undersigned representative.



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AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES IN THE CITY OF KIDAPAWAN, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION TWENTY-NINE OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG ISANG DAAN DALAWAMPU'T SIYAM (BP 129), OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REOGGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Section 29 of Batas Pambansa Bilang 129, otherwise known as the Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 29. Municipal Trial Courts in Cities. – In every city which does not form part of a metropolitan area, there shall be a Municipal Trial Court with one branch, except as hereunder provided:

"Two branches for Laoag City;

"Four branches for Baguio City;

"Three branches for Dagupan City;

"Five branches for Olongapo City;

Three branches for Cabanatuan City;

"Two branches for San Jose City;

"Three branches for Angelen City;

"Two branches for Cavite City;
"Two branches for Batangas City;
"Two branches for Lucena City;
"Three branches for Naga City;
"Two branches for Iriga City;
"Three branches for Legaspi City;
"Two branches for Roxas City;
" Four branches for Iloilo City;
"Seven branches for Bacolod City;
"Two branches for Dumaguete City;
"Two branches for Tacloban City;
"Eight branches for Cebu City;
"Three branches for Mandaue City;
"Two branches for Tagbilaran City;
"Two branches for Surigao City;
"Two branches for Butuan City;
"Five branches for Cagayan de Oro City;
"Seven branches for Davao City;
"Three branches for Kidapawan City;"
"Three branches for General Santos City;
"Two branches for Oroquieta City;
"Three branches for Ozamis City;
"Two branches for Dipolog City;

"Four branches for Zamboanga City;

"Two branches for Pagadian City; and

"Two branches for Iligan City."

" Three branches for Calamba City."

SECTION 2. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Justice shall immediately include in the Court's program the operationalization of the two (2) additional municipal trial court branches in the city of Kidapawan City, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriation Act.

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