

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3771

Introduced by: **HON. ARTURO O. RADAZA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Bill seeks to create additional branches in the Regional Trial Court (RTC) and Municipal Trial Court in Cities (MTCC) in Lapu-Lapu City.

At present, Lapu-Lapu City has three (3) RTC branches, and a lone MTCC branch. It used to be a component city of the province of Cebu. But, in 2007, it was reclassified as a highly-urbanized city. Further, it has been constituted as a lone congressional district since 2009.

Relative to these, the population in Lapu-Lapu City grew from 217,019 in 2001 to 292,530 in 2007 per the National Statistics Office (NSO). As published in the NSO website, there was a 34.8% population growth in the city in the span of seven years with an average of a 4.2% per annum interest rate, which is expected to escalate in the coming years. Aside from the increased population, the number of business establishments has also swollen due to the city's aggressive efforts towards modernization and development.

More importantly, cases filed before Lapu-Lapu City courts have meteorically risen. This is evidenced by the statistical report provided by the Court Management Office (CMO) of the Supreme Court (SC), wherein, at present, the total number of cases pending with the three RTC branches has reached an astounding 4,993, and 1,642 in the lone MTCC branch. These numbers are grossly in excess of the ideal caseload of 300 cases per RTC branch and 500 cases per MTCC branch. This prompted the SC-CMO to recommend to our office the filing of a bill for the creation of fourteen (14) additional RTC branches and two (2) additional MTCC branches in Lapu-Lapu City.

In this light and with the goal of speedy delivery of justice, we propose the creation of fourteen (14) additional RTC branches and two (2) additional MTCC branches in Lapu-Lapu City. Approval of the proposed bill is earnestly sought.


ARTURO O. RADAZA

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING FOURTEEN (14) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT AND TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE
MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES IN LAPU-LAPU CITY, AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129 OR THE JUDICIARY
REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established fourteen (14) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court and two (2) additional branches of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities in Lapu-Lapu City.

SEC. 2. The Supreme Court shall constitute the fourteen (14) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court and two (2) additional branches of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities hereby created in Lapu-Lapu City and assign the corresponding branch numbers in accordance with this Act, and in relation to Batas Pambansa, Blg. 129, as amended.

SEC. 3. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act for the immediate constitution and continuous operation of the fourteen (14) additional branches

of the Regional Trial Court and two (2) additional branches of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities hereby created in Lapu-Lapu City shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act starting the year following its enactment into law.

SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 5. *Effectivity Clause.* - This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,