

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 4300

Introduced by **Representative EVELYN P. MELLANA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide for the creation of two additional Regional Trial Court (RTC) salas in the province of Agusan del Sur, to be stationed at the municipalities of Trento and San Francisco.

The existing RTC branches in the province have seats at the municipalities of Prosperidad (Branch 6) and Bayugan (Branch 7), both located in the First Legislative District. As there is presently no RTC in our district, the sites of the proposed additional RTC salas are strategically located in the Second Legislative District to efficiently and equitably deliver judicial services to our people.

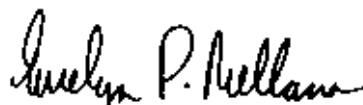
As early as 1998, even before the reapportionment of the legislative district of Agusan del Sur in 2008 under Republic Act 9508, there have been clamor and demand from the local officials for Congress to establish additional RTC salas in the province as manifested through Resolution 280 (s. 1998) passed by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan. The resolution cited the hundreds of criminal and civil cases pending before the salas as one of the primary justifications behind the establishment of additional salas.

Similarly, the Presiding Judge of RTC 6 (Prosperidad), through a memorandum dated 03 February 2011, has expressed the pressing need to create additional RTC branches in the province.

According to the Judiciary, the ideal proportion is for one judge to be serving a population of 10,000 inhabitants. What we have in our province, at present, is one judge serving more than 300,000 people (based on the 2007 NSO Census).

The creation of two additional RTC branches in the district will not only hasten judicial processes but also make it less cumbersome for our people. In the current set up, litigants are faced with the difficulty of traveling for several hours and the burden of bearing costly transportation expenses just to attend their scheduled hearings.

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


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HOUSE BILL NO. 4300

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AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCHES IN THE PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL SUR, ONE TO BE STATIONED AT THE MUNICIPALITY OF TRENTO, AND ONE TO BE STATIONED AT THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN FRANCISCO, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980," AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1.** There is hereby created two additional Regional Trial Court (RTC) branches in
2 the Province of Agusan del Sur, with seats at the Municipality of Trento and at the
3 Municipality of San Francisco.

4
5 The Supreme Court shall designate the branch numbers of the additional branches of RTC.

6
7 **SECTION 2.** In view thereof, Section 14, paragraph (k) of Batas Pambansa Bilang 129,
8 otherwise known as The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980, as amended, is hereby
9 further amended to read as follows:

10
11 (k) [Thirty-two] THIRTY-FOUR Regional Trial Judges shall be commissioned for the
12 Tenth Judicial Region. There shall be:

13
14 X X X

15
16 [Two] FOUR branches for the province of Agusan del Sur, Branch VI with seat
17 at Prosperidad, [and] Branch VII with seat at Bayugan, BRANCH () WITH
18 SEAT AT TRENTO, AND BRANCH () WITH SEAT AT SAN FRANCISCO;

19
20 X X X

21
22 **SECTION 3.** The Supreme Court shall cause the construction of the offices of the additional
23 Regional Trial Court Branches in Trento and San Francisco, and the assignment of the
24 Presiding Judges thereat.

25
26 **SECTION 4.** The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the Secretary of
27 the Department of Justice, shall immediately include in the Court's program the

operationalization of two (2) additional RTC branches in the Province of Agusan del Sur, the funding for which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 5. The Supreme Court shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act and if warranted, the realignment of the seats of existing branches and their territorial jurisdictions.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Approved,