

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

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6080



Introduced by Hon. LEOPOLDO N. BATAOIL

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Fair and speedy justice is a fundamental right guaranteed under the Constitution and one principal concern brought to fore by the bench and the bar in Pangasinan is the voluminous number of cases being handled by the courts in said province.

The province of Pangasinan has 27 Municipal Trial Court in Cities (MTCC), Municipal Circuit Trial Courts (MCTC), and Municipal Trial Courts (MTC) and 24 Regional Trial Courts (RTC) covering the cities of Alaminos, Dagupan, San Carlos and Urdaneta and the towns of Anda, Bani, Bayambang, Binmaley, Bolinao, Calasiao, Lingayen, Malasiqui, Manaoag, Mangaldan, Mangatarem, Mapandan, Sta. Barbara, Sta. Maria and Umingan, Aguilar-Bugallon, Balungao, Burgos-Mabini-Dasol, Labrador-Sual, San Fabian-San Jacinto, Urbiztondo-Basista, Pozorrubio-Sison, Asingan-San Manuel, Alcala-Bautista, Tayug-San Nicolas, Natividad-San Quintin, Villasis-Sto. Tomas, Binalonan- Laoac, each with a docket of one thousand cases more or less.

The area over which these courts in Pangasinan exercise jurisdiction is not only extensive but is also considered as one of the fastest developing hubs in the Province of Pangasinan. Even as the courts in the province have assiduously and competently discharged their functions and duties, they simply cannot cope with and dispose of cases faster than the sheer number of cases being filed in their respective salas.

The people of Pangasinan deserve an improved quality of life through fast and efficient administration of justice. Moreover, there is a clamor from the judges in the Province of Pangasinan to increase the courts in the province to address the growing number of population and the increasing complexities of life brought about by an increase in commercial transactions, among others. Therefore, to prevent the situation where the quality of justice being served is sacrificed for the sake of expediency and to avoid the deterioration of the situation into a classic example of the often quoted adage that "Justice delayed is justice denied," it is but imperative that five (5) additional Regional Trial Courts be created to be spread out in the key areas of the province, namely: Alaminos City, Dagupan City, San Carlos City, Lingayen and Urdaneta City.

Hence, approval of this bill is highly recommended.


LEOPOLDO N. BATAOIL
Representative, 2nd District of Pangasinan

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AN ACT

ESTABLISHING FIVE ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LINGAYEN AND IN THE CITIES OF ALAMINOS, DAGUPAN, SAN CARLOS AND URDANETA, ALL SITUATED IN THE PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION 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 14 of Batas Pambansa Bilang Isang Daan Dalawampu at Siyam, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 14. Regional Trial Courts. –

(a)	xxx	xxx	xxx
	xxx	xxx	xxx

“TWENTY-SIX branches (Branches XXXVII to LVII-I) for the Province of Pangasinan and the cities of Dagupan and San Carlos, Branches XXXVII to XXXIX-I with Seats at Lingayen, Branches XL to XLIV-I at Dagupan, Branches XLV to XLIX-I at Urdaneta, Branch L at Villasis, Branch LI and LII at Tayug, Branch LIII at Rosales, Branches LIV and LV-I at Alaminos and Branches LVI and LVII-I at San Carlos.”

SECTION 2. The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations for the Supreme Court under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such amount as maybe 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 newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,