

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

15th Congress
Third Regular Session



MEMORANDUM

FOR : **THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL
FOR OPERATIONS**

ATTENTION : **THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PLENARY AFFAIRS BUREAU**

**THE SERVICE DIRECTOR
BILLS & INDEX SERVICE**

FROM: **THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL FOR
COMMITTEE AFFAIRS**

SUBJECT : **COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2567
RE: Additional Court Salas**

We are respectfully transmitting herewith six (6) copies of the Committee Report on House Bill No. 6800 in substitution of House Bill No. 899, entitled "**AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE PROVINCE OF CEBU TO BE STATIONED IN DANAOS CITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (H) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.**"

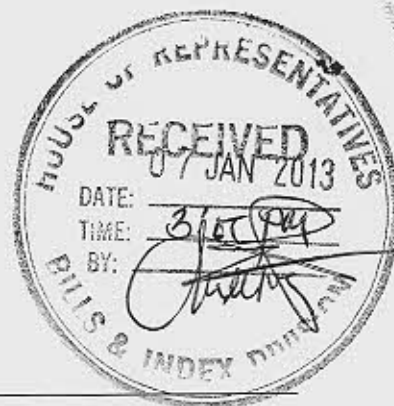
For your appropriate action.


ATTY. ARLENE DADA-ARNALDO 

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

Third Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2567

Submitted by the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations on
07 JAN 2013

Re: House Bill No. 6800

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 899

Sponsors: Representatives Niel C. Tupas, Jr., Jocelyn S. Limkaichong, and Ramon
"Red" Durano VI

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations, to which was referred House Bill No. 899, introduced by Representative Ramon "Red" Durano VI, entitled:

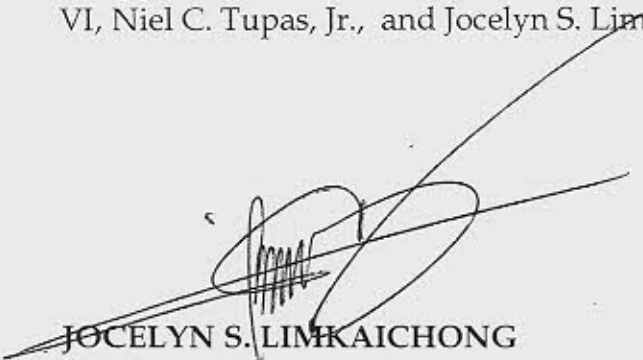
"AN ACT
CREATING AN ADDITIONAL REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
BRANCH IN DANA O CITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR"

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill No.
6800, entitled:

AN ACT
CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL
COURT IN THE PROVINCE OF CEBU TO BE STATIONED IN

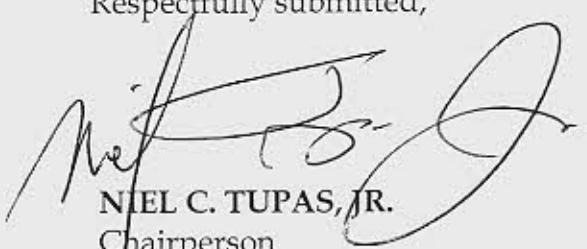
**DANAO CITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14,
PARAGRAPH (H) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS *THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980*, AS
AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

be approved in substitution of HB No. 899 with Representatives Ramon "Red" Durano,
VI, Niel C. Tupas, Jr., and Jocelyn S. Limkaichong, as authors thereof.



JOCELYN S. LIMKAICHONG
Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations

Respectfully submitted,



NIEL C. TUPAS, JR.
Chairperson
Committee on Justice

The Honorable
The Speaker
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6800

Introduced by Representatives Ramon "Red" H. Durano VI, Niel C. Tupas, Jr., and Jocelyn S. Limkaichong

AN ACT

CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE PROVINCE OF CEBU TO BE STATIONED IN DANAOS CITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (H) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 SECTION 1. There is hereby created a branch of the Regional Trial Court in the
2 Seventh Judicial Region to be stationed in Danao City, Province of Cebu.

3 The Supreme Court shall assign the branch number of the newly created branch of
4 the Regional Trial Court in the Seventh Judicial Region.

5 SEC. 2. The additional Regional Trial Court branch herein created shall have
6 jurisdiction over cases coming from the City of Danao and the municipalities of Carmen,
7 Catmon, Sogod, San Francisco, Poro, Pilar and Tudela, all in the Province of Cebu.

8 SEC. 3. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in coordination with the
9 Secretary of the Department of Justice shall immediately include in the Court's program
10 the operationalization of the Regional Trial Court branch to be stationed in Danao City,

1 Province of Cebu, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General
2 Appropriations Act.

3 SEC. 4. Section 14 (h) of Batas Pambansa Bilang 129 otherwise known as "The
4 Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980" as amended, and all other laws, rules and
5 regulation which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified
6 accordingly.

7 SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication
8 in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

9 Approved,



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

Fifteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 899

Introduced by Honorable Ramon "Red" H. Durano VI

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The City of Danao, in the Province of Cebu, is home to only one Municipal Trial Court (MTC) and one Regional Trial Court (RTC). These courts serve the City of Danao and the neighboring municipalities of San Francisco, Poro, Pilar and Tudela of the Camotes group of islands and the municipalities of Carmen, Catmon and Sogod in mainland Cebu.

The growth of the city and the towns which are being served by these courts have brought a lot of opportunities as well as difficulties. Their population has tremendously ballooned. Their social, political and economic activities have also greatly increased. With these developments, the administration of justice, necessary for the continued economic development and also necessary for implementation of peace and order, has been greatly hampered by the lack of courts that could handle efficiently the growing number of cases.

Records from the existing courts show that from 2001 to 2006, there is an average of 900 pending cases per year. These data show the necessity of putting up additional court branches so as ensure ready and prompt administration of justice.

For continued economic development and peace and order, the efficient administration of justice is of paramount importance. Thus, immediate approval of this measure is prayed for and recommended.


RAMON "Red" H. DURANO VI



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

Fifteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 899

Introduced by Honorable Ramon "Red" H. Durano VI

AN ACT
CREATING AN ADDITIONAL REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCH IN
DANAO CITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

Section 1. **Creation.** – In addition to the existing regional trial court in Danao City, there is hereby created one additional Regional Trial Court branch.

Section 2. **Jurisdiction.** – the additional regional trial court branch herein created shall have jurisdiction over the City of Danao and the municipalities of Carmen, Catmon, Sogod, San Francisco, Poro, Pilar and Tudela, all in the Province of Cebu.

Section 3. **Assignment of Cases.** – Upon the effectivity of this Act and subject to the guidelines to be issued by the Supreme Court of the Republic of the Philippines to implement the provisions of this Act, the existing Regional Trial Court Branch 25 in Danao City shall assign equally such number of pending and active cases as the Supreme Court may determine to the additional branch herein created.

Section 4. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The Supreme Court of the Republic of the Philippines shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

For his part Hon. Tieng manifested that his bill's explanatory note will serve as his sponsorship speech and added that he is open to any amendments that the Committee may propose for his measure.

Citing the Anti-Stalking laws of the United States, the Chair mentioned that the enactment of said laws in that country were fairly recent and was brought about as a result of the death of a celebrity, Rebecca Schaeffer, who was stalked and killed by her assailant. In the Philippines, however, he said there is yet no law on stalking and only a civil action for damages under Article 26 of the Civil Code is what is applicable in the country.

The Chair asked Hon. Tieng if his bill will apply to media men who may, through a series of acts such as repeated texting, e-mails, phone calls, cause emotional stress to the person they are covering. In response, Hon. Tieng said if the court finds that the series of acts cause untoward stress on the person, then the court may issue a protection order against them.

Asked for his comments, Deputy Court Administrator Eugenio opined that if the stalking undertaken by the media is legitimate, will the bill not contravene freedom of the press? A similar sentiment was expressed by Atty. Alexander Gozon of Globe who said the measure may be construed as a restraint on the freedom of expression.

Admitting that they perform the acts mentioned by the Chair, Mr. John Manalastas, assistant vice president of GMA 7's news production, nonetheless asked if the work of media men can be an exception. The Chair assured him in such a case, the rights of media practitioners will be protected.

Atty. Roy Ibay of Smart/Sun Cellular said that they are only responsible for the sending and receiving of the message and do not have any part in the content which passes through the system.

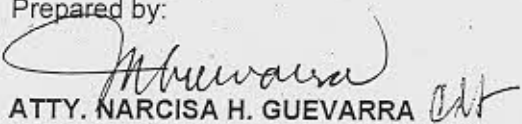
Meanwhile, P/C. Supt. Christopher Laxa of the Philippine National Police expressed the agency's support for the measure and informed the body that they filed cases similar to stalking but were only classified as unjust vexation. He added that the PNP had also entertained 10 cases of cyberstalking.

After the discussions, Hon. David Kho made a motion for the approval of the measures and for the creation of a technical working group that will consolidate the 3 bills. The motion was carried and the Chair announced that the bills were approved in principle, subject to amendment and consolidation by a technical working group to be composed of the authors of the 3 bills, Hon. Kho, representatives of the DOJ, PNP, NBI, and the media sector.

V. Adjournment:

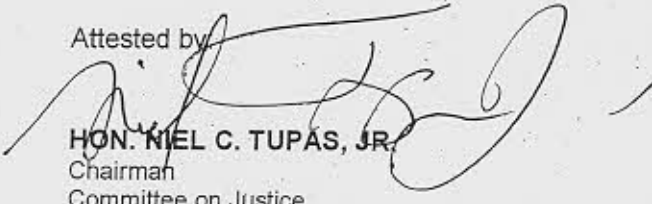
The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Prepared by:


ATTY. NARCISA H. GUEVARRA

Committee Secretary
Committee on Justice

Attested by:


HON. NIEL C. TUPAS, JR.

Chairman
Committee on Justice