



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

Sixteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 679



Introduced by : **Honorable George P. Arnaiz**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 16 of Article III (Bill of Rights) of the 1987 Constitution states:

"All persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial and administrative bodies."

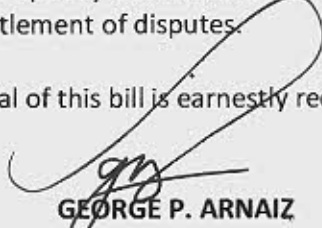
This bill seeks to establish an additional Shari'a District Court for the entire Visayas Regions comprising of Western Visayas, Central Visayas and Eastern Visayas with seat at Cebu City and three (3) additional Shari'a Circuit Courts for each region with seats at Iloilo City, Cebu City and Tacloban City, amending for the purpose Articles 138, 147 and 150 of Presidential Decree No. 1083, otherwise known as the *"Code of Muslim Personal Laws of the Philippines."*

The existing Shari'a District and Circuit Courts in Mindanao serve both Muslim litigants in Mindanao and in Visayas. At present, the population of Muslims in three (3) regions of Visayas is estimated to have risen to more than 30,000 due to migration from Mindanao.

With the increasing population, there is a rise in the number of civil and criminal cases. The residents of the Visayas regions have to suffer the time-consuming and expensive travel to and from Mindanao just to file and eventually attend the hearing of their cases.

The proposed additional number of courts will help decongest the dockets of the existing Shari'a Courts in Mindanao. At the same time, they will serve and ensure the Muslim residents in the Visayas of speedy access to courts for the redress of their grievances and adjudication or settlement of disputes.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.


GEORGE P. ARNAIZ
Representative
2nd District, Oriental Negros



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AN ACT

ESTABLISHING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL SHARI'A DISTRICT COURT FOR THE ENTIRE VISAYAS WITH SEAT AT CEBU CITY AND THREE (3) ADDITIONAL SHARI'A CIRCUIT COURTS FOR THE VISAYAS REGIONS WITH SEAT AT ILOILO CITY (WESTERN VISAYAS), CEBU CITY (CENTRAL VISAYAS) AND TACLOBAN CITY (EASTERN VISAYAS), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1083, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "CODE OF MUSLIM PERSONAL LAWS OF THE PHILIPPINES" AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Article 138 of Presidential Decree No. 1083 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"ART. 138. *Shari'a judicial districts.* – [Five] SIX special judicial districts, each to have one Shari'a District Court Presided over by one judge, are constituted as follows:

(a) xxx

xxx

xxx

xxx

(d) xxx

xxx

xxx, [and]

(e) xxx

xxx

xxx; AND

(F) THE SIXTH SHARI'A DISTRICT, FOR THE ENTIRE VISAYAS REGIONS COMPRISING OF WESTERN VISAYAS, CENTRAL VISAYAS AND EASTERN VISAYAS."

SECTION 2. Article 147 of the same Decree is hereby amended to read as follows:

"ART. 147. *Permanent stations; office.* – (1) The Shari'a District Courts shall have their respective permanent stations in the following places:

a) xxx

xxx

xxx

xxx

(e) xxx

xxx

xxx; AND

(F) SIXTH SHARI'A DISTRICT, CEBU CITY

xxx

xxx

xxx."

SECTION 3. Article 150 of the same Decree is hereby amended to read as follows:

"ART. 150. *Where established* – (1) Shari'a Circuit Courts shall be established as follows:

(a) xxx

b) xxx

xxx

xxx

xxx

(e) xxx

xxx

xxx; AND

(F) THREE IN AND FOR WESTERN VISAYAS, CENTRAL VISAYAS AND EASTERN VISAYAS WITH SEATS AT ILOILO CITY, CEBU CITY AND TACLOBAN CITY, RESPECTIVELY.

xxx

xxx

xxx."

SECTION 4. The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations for the Supreme Court. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,