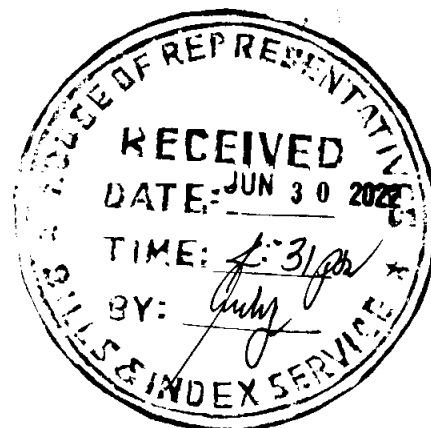


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 325



Introduced by Hon. **ALAN 1 B. ECLEO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

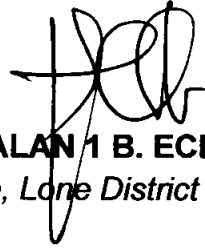
Equity in development, access to administrative efficiency, basic services, and promotion of justice are a few but some of the dilemmas usually faced by island provinces and municipalities. Through resilient and people-based governance, the Province of Dinagat Islands holistically improved. However, with this improvement comes an increase in the number of legal cases, both civil and criminal. On year 2019, the Province of Dinagat Islands recorded notable surge in index crimes which posted at 15.38 percent. Moreover, the reported cases of rape and physical injuries in the Province amplified by 133.33 percent and 300.00 percent relative to the recorded incidents compared to year 2018.¹

Unfortunately, the nearest court where these cases are filed and tried is approximately fifty (50) kilometers from the island. The travel takes a long time and requires several changes of transportation type which accordingly hampers the supposedly speedy disposition of cases as mandated under the Constitution. Section 16, Article 3 of the Constitution does not only entail speedy disposition based on the length of time it takes a case to be resolved, but also the cost of litigation. It will take a minimum of three changes of transportation type to reach the mainland of Surigao City, not to mention its costly fare, exclusive of meals and other litigation expenses.

In view of the foregoing, the creation of new courts through the passage of this bill will alleviate the legal situation in the province, allowing not only for a swift disposition of cases, but for the promotion of justice and peaceful legal relations as well.

¹ Carigara Regional Economic Situation – Second Quarter 2019: https://nro13.neda.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/QRES_2Q_2019-1.pdf.

In the best interest of our citizens, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan B. Ecleo', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

ALAN B. ECLEO
Representative, Lone District of Dinagat Islands

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 325

Introduced by Hon. **ALAN 1 B. ECLEO**

AN ACT CREATING ONE BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT (RTC) TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN JOSE AND TWO BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT (MTC) TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF SAN JOSE AND BASILISA, PROVINCE OF DINAGAT ISLANDS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (k) AND SECTION 30 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 the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. – One branch of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) for the Municipality of San Jose in the Province of Dinagat Islands, with seat thereat, is hereby created in the Tenth Judicial Region.

Two branches of the Municipal Trial Court (MTC), one to be stationed in the Municipality of San Jose and another to be stationed in the Municipality of Basilisa in the Province of Dinagat Islands, are hereby created in the Tenth Judicial Region.

SEC. 2. – The Supreme Court shall assign the respective branch number for the newly created branches of the Regional Trial Court and the Municipal Trial Court.

SEC. 3. – The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the Secretary of Department of Justice, shall immediately include in the Court's program the operationalization of the branches of the RTC and MTC, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. Section 14(k) and Section 30 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as “The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980” as amended, and all other

laws, rules, and regulations that are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby amended, repealed, or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,