

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

19th Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6471



Introduced by **HONORABLE PETER B. MIGUEL**

AN ACT ESTABLISHING ADDITIONAL TWO (2) BRANCHES OF MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS IN CITIES (MTCC) IN THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED AT THE CITY OF KORONADAL, PROVINCE OF SOUTH COTABATO AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 14 (M) AND SECTION 29 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AS AMENDED

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to create two (2) Municipal Trial Courts in Cities in the Eleventh Judicial Region to be stationed at Koronadal City.

This proposal is made more significant with the passage of into law of Republic Act 11567 otherwise known as the "AN ACT FUTHER EXPANDING THE JURISDICTION OF THE METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURTS, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS AND MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980.

The primary duty of our courts is the fair and speedy disposition of cases. However, the increasing number of cases filed in courts and the constant delay in the processing of cases have resulted to heavy and inexcusably congested courts. The legal principle that "justice delayed is justice denied" therefor slowly loses its significance. This problem seriously disables and affects all facets of the judicial process.

Over the years, the cases pending in the lower-level courts increased at an alarming rate and the backlog continues to grow, depriving the courts of the essential element of time. There are too many cases being tried by inadequate number of courts and judges making the quality of justice adversely affected and making the people wary, if not distrustful, of the judicial system as an effective means of attaining justice and redressing offenses and misconduct.

Currently, there is only one (1) branch of Municipal Trial Courts in Cities (MTCC) in the city of Koronadal and the increase in the threshold amounts under the Revised Rules of Procedure for Small Claims Cases undeniably made the speedy disposition of cases even more challenging thus the need to establish additional branches.

The creation of additional branches of MTCs which will be stationed in the City of Koronadal will greatly benefit litigants and will surely help the speedy disposition of cases in the area.

It is for this purpose and the advancement of the administration of justice that early passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

PETER B. MIGUEL
Representative
Second District of South Cotabato

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

- Section 1.* Two (2) additional branches of the Municipal Trial Courts in Cities are hereby created in the Eleventh Judicial Region to be stationed at Koronadal City.
- Section 2:* The Supreme Court shall assign the respective branch numbers for the newly created branches.
- Section 3:* The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Justice, shall immediately include in the Court’s program, the implementation of this Act. The funding therefor shall likewise be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The funds necessary shall be appropriated and released only upon the actual organization of the courts and the appointment of its personnel.
- Section 5:* Section 14 (1) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as “The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980,” as amended, as well as other provisions that may be inconsistent herewith, is hereby deemed repealed, modified, or further amended.
- Section 6:* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED.