



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

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **8076**



Introduced by Representative PAUL R. DAZA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article III (Bill of Rights) Section 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that *"No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor shall any person be denied the equal protection of the laws."*

Moreover, Section 11 states that *"Free access to the courts and quasi-judicial bodies and adequate legal assistance shall not be denied to any person by reason of poverty"* while Section 16 stipulates that *"All persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative bodies."*

These constitutional and policy declarations require the establishment of adequate, accessible, and reliable systems and mechanisms through which every Filipino will be respectfully served without fear of undue delay, exorbitant expenses, and discrimination.

Unfortunately, in provinces such as Northern Samar, the sheer number of backlogs of cases in the regional trial courts (RTC) make it nearly impossible to provide adequate service to those seeking justice through the judicial process.

The clogging of the dockets of our courts results in much delay in the delivery of justice which is arguably tantamount to its denial. Meanwhile, residents of far-flung municipalities are forced to travel long distances in order to file cases or seek legal assistance. This entails exorbitant expenses not to mention additional physical, emotional, and mental exhaustion. While it is recognized that establishing additional branches of RTCs is not the sole answer to the slow dispensation of justice and backlogs in many courts, it is already a significant step forward.

The establishment of three (3) branches of RTC Region 8 in the municipalities of Catarman, Allen, and Laoang is then timely and necessary. It will not only contribute to resolving backlogs, it will also help strengthen public trust and confidence for the judiciary and contribute to social equity. As Martin Luther King Jr. once said, *"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."*

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

PAUL R. DAZA
Representative, 1st District of Northern Samar



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AN ACT CREATING THREE BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT (RTC) TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF CATARMAN, ALLEN AND LAOANG, PROVINCE OF NORTHERN SAMAR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (i) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN “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:

SECTION 1. – Three (3) branches of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) for the Municipalities of Catarman, Allen, and Laoang, respectively, in the Province of Northern Samar, with seat thereat, is hereby created in the Eighth Judicial Region.

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

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

SEC. 4. – Section 14(i) 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,