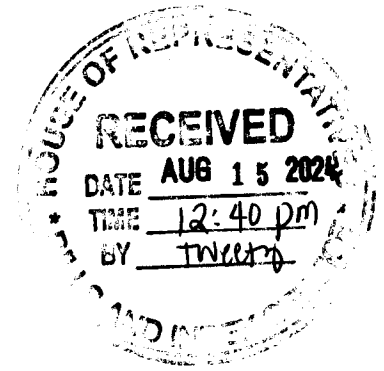


Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 10771



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Introduced by Representative **MOHAMAD "TONG" P. PAGLAS, SR.**  
*Representative, Lone District of Maguindanao del Sur*

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution of the Philippines underscores the importance of equitable representation, emphasizing the need to prioritize the representation of the masses. Specifically, it mandates that each legislative district must have a representative for every 250,000 population, ensuring that the voices and concerns of the people are adequately heard and addressed in the legislative process.

Maguindanao del Sur, with a burgeoning population of 723,758 as per the latest census, currently operates under a lone legislative district, which significantly surpasses the population threshold mandated by the Constitution. The existing configuration poses significant challenges to effective governance and equitable representation of the diverse communities within the province.

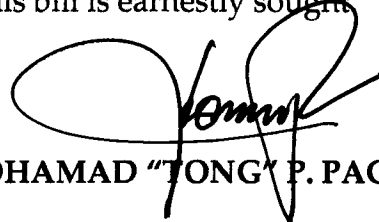
With its 24 municipalities, Maguindanao del Sur exhibits a diverse and vibrant cultural landscape. The proposed reapportionment takes into account not only the population density but also the geographical and cultural diversity within the province. By creating two legislative districts, the bill aims to facilitate a more nuanced representation of the various communities and their unique needs, enabling more targeted and effective governance and development planning.

The proposed reapportionment also serves to enhance democratic participation by providing greater opportunities for qualified individuals to engage in the legislative process. By increasing the number of legislative districts, the bill aims to foster political inclusivity, encourage the active involvement of the populace,

and facilitate the election of representatives who can more effectively champion the interests and welfare of their respective constituencies.

This bill seeks to address this concern by proposing the reapportionment of Maguindanao del Sur into two legislative districts. The proposed reapportionment is founded on the constitutional principle of providing adequate representation for each constituency. By dividing the province into two legislative districts, this bill aims to ensure that the concerns and aspirations of the people are more comprehensively represented and addressed in the legislative arena.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mohamad', with a large, stylized flourish extending upwards and to the right.

MOHAMAD "TONG" P. PAGLAS, SR.

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 10771

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Introduced by Representative MOHAMAD "TONG" P. PAGLAS, SR.  
*Representative, Lone District of Maguindanao del Sur*

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AN ACT  
REAPPORTIONING THE LONE DISTRICT OF MAGUINDANAO DEL  
SUR INTO TWO LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS, AND APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR

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

**SECTION 1. Title.** This Act shall be known as the "Reapportionment of the Lone District of Maguindanao del Sur into Two Legislative Districts Act."

**SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** It is the declared policy of the State to ensure equitable representation and effective governance in all legislative districts, in accordance with the constitutional mandate to prioritize the representation of the masses. This includes the recognition of the unique needs and aspirations of the people of Maguindanao del Sur, which can be better addressed through the establishment of two legislative districts.

**SEC. 3. Reapportionment.** The current lone legislative district of Maguindanao del Sur shall be reapportioned into two legislative districts, to be known as the First Legislative District of Maguindanao del Sur and the Second Legislative District of Maguindanao del Sur. The division of the legislative districts shall be as follows:

The First Legislative District of Maguindanao del Sur shall comprise the following municipalities:

Name	Population (2020)	Area (2013), in km <sup>2</sup>	Barangay count
1. Datu Anggal Midtimbang	28,224	85.43	7
2. Datu Hoffer Ampatuan	26,660	193.45	11
3. Datu Piang	28,380	120.77	16
4. Datu Salibo	18,795	81.61	17
5. Datu Saudi-Ampatuan	31,060	60.16	8
6. Datu Unsay	12,890	95.39	8
7. Mamasapano	27,807	220.00	10
8. Guindulungan	24,933	130.68	11
9. Shariff Aguak	33,982	166.00	13
10. Shariff Saydona Mustapha	25,080	85.31	14
11. South Upi	43,197	318.95	11
12. Talayan	34,156	143.84	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>335,164</b>	<b>1701.59</b>	<b>141</b>

The Second Legislative District of Maguindanao del Sur shall comprise the following municipalities:

Name	Population (2020)	Area (2013), in km <sup>2</sup>	Barangay count
1. Ampatuan	28,941	255.40	11
2. Buluan	57,406	699.50	7
3. Datu Abdullah Sangki	30,117	101.26	16
4. Datu Paglas	33,682	269.80	23
5. General Salipada K. Pendatun	31,263	189.37	19
6. Mangudadatu	26,203	98.16	8
7. Pagagawan (Datu Montawal)	37,314	461.10	11
8. Pagalungan	46,277	898.76	12
9. Paglat	18,727	177.74	8
10. Pandag	26,356	85.31	8
11. Rajah Buayan	27,832	71.98	11
12. Sultan sa Barongis	24,476	291.30	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>388,594</b>	<b>3599.68</b>	<b>146</b>

**SEC. 4. Representation.** Each of the newly established legislative districts shall be entitled to one representative in the House of Representatives, in accordance

with the provisions of the Constitution mandating representation for every 250,000 population.

**SEC. 5. Appropriations.** The necessary funds for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the national government. Any additional funding required shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following the enactment of this Act and thereafter.

**SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** The Commission on Elections (COMELEC) and other concerned agencies shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

**SEC. 7. Separability Clause.** If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

**SEC. 8. Repealing Clause.** All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 9. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,