



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

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 26



Introduced by Representative NIKO RAUL S.J. DAZA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article III, Section 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution affirms 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.”

Furthermore, Section 11 guarantees 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 ensures that “All persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative bodies.”

These constitutional mandates underscore the State’s obligation to establish systems and mechanisms that are accessible, responsive, and just—ensuring that every Filipino can seek legal redress without fear of inordinate delay, excessive costs, or discrimination.

However, in the Province of Northern Samar, the severe backlog of cases in the Regional Trial Courts (RTCs) has rendered the expeditious delivery of justice extremely difficult. The persistent congestion of court dockets leads to protracted delays which, in effect, deny many individuals the justice they seek. Residents from remote municipalities often endure long, burdensome travel to access judicial services, incurring considerable expenses and experiencing additional physical, emotional, and mental strain.

While the creation of additional RTC branches is not a comprehensive solution to the problem of judicial inefficiency, it represents a critical and immediate step toward alleviating the strain on existing courts and improving access to justice.

Accordingly, the proposed establishment of three (3) new RTC branches in Region VIII—specifically in the municipalities of Catarman, Allen, and Laoang—is both timely and imperative. This initiative will help reduce case backlogs, bring legal services closer to the people, and reinforce public confidence in the judicial system. As Martin Luther King Jr. aptly stated, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

In light of the foregoing, the swift passage of this measure is respectfully urged.

NIKO RAUL S.J. 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:

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

4
5 **SEC. 2.** – The Supreme Court shall assign the respective branch number for the newly
6 created branches of the Regional Trial Court.

7
8 **SEC. 3.** – The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the Department
9 of Justice, shall immediately include in the Court’s program the operationalization of the
10 Branches of the RTC, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General
11 Appropriations Act.

12
13 **SEC. 4.** – Section 14(i) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as “The
14 Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980” as amended, and all other laws, rules, and regulations
15 that are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby amended, repealed, or modified accordingly.

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

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20 *Approved,*
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