

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 232

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI**

AN ACT
CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE 10TH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF QUEZON, PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 (K) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980" AS AMENDED

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Province of Bukidnon, with a 2020 population of approximately 1.541 million¹, currently operates only ten (10) organized Regional Trial Court (RTC) branches - stationed in Malaybalay City, Maramag, Don Carlos, Municipality of Manolo Fortich, and Valencia City – with an estimated ratio of 150,000 individuals per Regional Trial Court.

While the Municipality of Quezon is geographically proximate to the Regional Trial Court (RTC) branches located in Valencia City and Maramag, the existing court infrastructure in these areas is already stretched thin. Valencia City, with a population of approximately 216,000, and Maramag, home to over 108,000 residents, together serve a total of more than 324,000 people - excluding caseload spillovers from surrounding municipalities such as Don Carlos, Kitaotao, and Quezon itself.

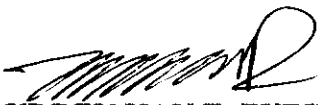
¹ <https://rso10.psa.gov.ph/special-release/node/56339>

Given these population figures and the growing number of criminal, civil, and land-related disputes in the region, the RTC branches in Valencia and Maramag are not sufficient to meet the rising demand for judicial services. Docket congestion persists, and delays in case disposition remain a major concern for litigants and the courts.

The establishment of an additional branch of the RTC in the tenth judicial region to be stationed in the Municipality of Quezon, will not only help decongest the courts in nearby localities but also bring justice closer to underserved communities in the southern corridor of Bukidnon.

Likewise, the establishment of an additional branch of the RTC affirms the Constitutional duty of the State under Section 11, Article III of the 1987 Constitution to provide access to courts and quasi-judicial bodies to any person. The establishment of an additional RTC branch guarantees the right of the people to accessible justice under the Constitution.

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


AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI
Representative, 3rd District of Bukidnon

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

1 **SEC. 1.** One (1) additional branch of the Regional Trial Court in the Tenth
2 Judicial Region is hereby created and stationed in the Municipality of Quezon, Province
3 of Bukidnon.

4
5 The Supreme Court shall assign the branch number for the newly created branch of the
6 Regional Trial Court.

7
8 **SEC. 2.** The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the
9 Secretary of the Department of Justice, shall immediately include in the Court’s
10 program the operationalization of one (1) additional branch of the Regional Trial Court
11 in the Municipality of Quezon, Province of Bukidnon. The Supreme Court shall issue
12 the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act and, if
13 warranted, the realignment of seats of existing branches and their territorial jurisdiction.

14

15 **SEC. 3.** The funds necessary for the implementation of this Act, including
16 appropriations for personnel services such as salaries, benefits and emoluments for the
17 judge and court personnel, court operations under maintenance and other operating
18 expenses (MOOE), and provisions for Hall of Justice or courtroom to accommodate the
19 judge and court staff, as well as funds necessary for the implementation of
20 automatically-created prosecutor positions pursuant to Section 13 of Republic Act No.
21 10071 or the "Prosecution Service Act of 2010" and appointment of public attorneys
22 pursuant to Section 7 of Republic Act No. 9406 or the "Act Reorganizing and
23 Strengthening the Public Attorney's Office (PAO), resulting from the creation of this
24 court, including appropriations for personnel services such as salaries, benefits, and
25 emoluments for prosecutors, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations
26 Act.

27

28 **SEC. 4.** Section 14 (K) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as "The
29 Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980", as amended, and all other laws, rules and
30 regulations which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or
31 modified accordingly.

32

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

Approved,