



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 1544

Introduced by **Representative Francisco “Lalo” T. Matugas**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The right to a speedy disposition of cases is a fundamental right guaranteed under Section 16, Article III of the 1987 Constitution. However, this right is undermined by the inaccessibility of trial courts across the country, especially for an island municipality like Socorro, Surigao del Norte.

The Municipality of Socorro is about five (5) nautical miles from the mainland of Siargao. At the moment, litigants from the municipality have to travel all the way to the Municipality of Dapa to attend to their cases. Trips to Dapa are not only costly for these litigants, but travel is also irregular as it depends on weather conditions.

This bill therefore seeks to establish a municipal trial court in the Municipality of Socorro to make the courts accessible to its residents. The immediate passage of this bill is, therefore, earnestly sought.

This bill seeks to establish Municipal Trial Court in the Municipality of Socorro. This will decongest the dockets of the court in Dapa, speed up the resolution of cases, and enhance access to justice, especially for residents of the municipality.

This bill was passed on Third Reading during the 19th Congress. Considering this, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


FRANCISCO “Lalo” T. MATUGAS
Representative
First District, Surigao del Norte



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AN ACT
CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN THE TENTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOCORRO, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 30 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980,” AS AMENDED

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

1 SECTION 1. One (1) additional branch of the Municipal Trial Court in the
2 Tenth Judicial Region is hereby created and stationed in the Municipality of Socorro,
3 Province of Surigao del Norte.

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

6 SEC. 2. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the
7 Secretary of the Department of Justice, shall immediately include in the Court’s
8 program the operationalization of the additional branch of the Municipal Trial Court
9 in the Municipality of Socorro, Province of Surigao del Norte.

1 SEC. 3. The funds necessary for the implementation of this Act, including
2 appropriations for personnel services such as salaries, benefits and emoluments for
3 expenses (MOOE), and provisions for Halls of Justice or courtrooms to accommodate
4 judges and court staff, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

5 SEC. 4. Section 30 of Batas 1 Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as “The
6 Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980”, as amended, and all other laws, rules and
7 regulations which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or
8 modified accordingly.

9 SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
10 Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

11 Approved,