

TWENTIETH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez and
Representative Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.*

House Bill No. 1934

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to create an additional branch of Family Court in the Tenth Judicial Region to be stationed in the City of Cagayan de Oro, Misamis Oriental.

Section 16, Article III of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that, "All persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative bodies." The Constitution mandates the Judiciary to deliver speedy and equal justice for all.

Furthermore, the Child and Youth Welfare Code mandates the paramount consideration of the best interest of the Child.

At present, Cagayan de Oro City is a 1st class Highly Urbanized City in the province of Misamis Oriental. According to the 2020 census, it has a growing population of 728,402 people.

Cagayan de Oro serves as a regional center and business hub of Northern Mindanao.

The Supreme Court's annual reports cite the perennial problem of clogged dockets, case delay, and scarce resources that continue to beset the Judiciary. Furthermore, congestion and slow court administrative systems exacerbate the situation. The Strategic Plan for Judicial Innovations (2022-2027) attributes these problems to scarce resources, poor court-to-population ratio, among others.

The Family Courts in Cagayan de Oro City are inundated with cases causing backlog to the detriment of the public.

This proposal to create an additional branch seeks to proactively address the court-to-population ratio and the growing demand for the immediate resolution of cases.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly requested.


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ


MAXIMO B. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

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AN ACT

CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF FAMILY COURT IN THE TENTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. One (1) additional branch of Family Court in the Tenth Judicial Region is hereby created and stationed in Cagayan de Oro City, Province of Misamis Oriental in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 8369, otherwise known as the "Family Courts Act of 1997".

The Supreme Court shall assign the respective branch numbers for the newly created branches of the Regional Trial Court

SEC. 2. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Justice, shall immediately include in the Court's program the operationalization of the additional branch of Family Court in the Tenth Judicial Region stationed in Cagayan de Oro City, Province of Misamis Oriental.

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

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

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

Approved,