



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Twentieth Congress
1st Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 2118



Introduced by Rep. Elisa T. Kho and Rep. Antonio T. Kho

EXPLANATORY NOTE

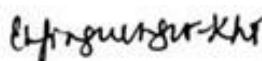
Clogged dockets are the most vivid representations of how a delay in the delivery of justice amounts to its denial. Each day that a case is left to rot in the docket translates to a day more of wait for one unjustly accused, or another denied of a rightful claim.

At present, there are only a few Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branches in Masbate that serve the whole province. The heavy caseload and growing number of cases each day pose notable challenges to these few RTC branches.

Thus, to hasten the speedy disposition of cases to Masbateños pursuant to the state policy enshrined under Section 16, Article III of the 1987 Constitution, this bill seeks to create an additional RTC branch in the Municipality of San Pascual in the First Congressional District of Masbate. This RTC Branch shall exercise jurisdiction over the whole Island of Burias, one of the major islands in the Province of Masbate and has two municipalities, namely Claveria and San Pascual.

The Office of the Court Administrator has expressed support to the passage of this bill. They opined that with the growing population of San Pascual and Claveria, which was at 86,591 in 2020 per that year's census, increase in the number of crimes is inevitable, which is why the creation of an RTC Branch in Burias Island is imperative,

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this proposed measure that will bring accessible and efficient delivery of justice to Masbateños is earnestly sought.


REP. ELISA T. KHO, M.D., FPCCP


REP. ANTONIO T. KHO



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**AN ACT
CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN
THE FIFTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
SAN PASCUAL, BURIAS ISLAND, PROVINCE OF MASBATE, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (F) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, AS
AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 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:

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "San Pascual, Burias Island Regional Trial Court Branch Act."

SECTION 2. Creation of an Additional Regional Trial Court Branch. One (1) additional Regional Trial Court branch is hereby created in the Fifth Judicial Region with a seat in the Municipality of San Pascual, Burias Island, Province of Masbate.

SECTION 3. Assignment of Branch Number. The Supreme Court shall assign the branch number of the newly created branch of the Regional Trial Court in the Fifth Judicial Region.

SECTION 4. Operationalization and Appropriations. 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 the Regional Trial Court in Burias Island, Municipality of San Pascual, Province of Masbate. The funds necessary for the operation of the Court herein created, including appropriations for personnel services such as salaries, benefits, and emoluments for the judge and court personnel, court operations under maintenance and other operating expenses, and provisions for Halls of Justice or courtroom to

accommodate the judge and court staff, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The funds shall be appropriated and released only upon the actual organization of the Court and the appointment of its personnel.

SECTION 5. Amendatory Clause. Section 14, paragraph (f) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as "The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980," as amended, and all other laws, rules and regulations that may be inconsistent with this Act, are hereby amended, repealed, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions hereof not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,