

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

20th CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3205



Introduced by **REP. IRENE G. LABADLABAD**
2nd District, Zamboanga del Norte

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This proposed bill was filed in the 17th, 18th and 19th Congress and seeks to create two (2) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court and five (5) additional branches of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities in the Ninth Judicial Region in the Province of Zamboanga del Norte amending for the purpose Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as the "Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980."

These courts shall be distributed as follows:

Municipality of Sindangan	- one (1) Regional Trial Court
City of Dipolog	- one (1) Regional Trial Court
City of Dipolog	- five (5) Municipal Trial Court in Cities

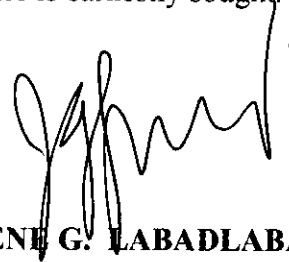
Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, which took effect on August 14, 1981, created six (6) branches of Regional Trial Courts (RTCs) in Zamboanga del Norte (five in Dipolog City and one in the Municipality of Sindangan) and two branches of Municipal Trial Court in Cities (MTCC) in Dipolog City.

From 1981 to 2025, or a period of more than forty four (44) years, the population in Zamboanga del Norte and Dipolog City have more than doubled. The number of cases filed with, and pending before, the courts in these areas have increased significantly throughout the years. Yet the number of courts remain stagnant.

Article III, Section 16, of the 1987 Philippine Constitution guarantees that "All persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative bodies." But with the continued clogging of the court dockets in

the Second Legislative District of Zamboanga del Norte, the attainment of this constitutional right remains elusive unless more courts are created.

For the above reasons, urgent approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Irene G. Labadlabad', written in a cursive style.

IRENE G. LABADLABAD

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HOUSE BILL NO. 3205

Introduced by **REP. IRENE G. LABADLABAD**

AN ACT

CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT AND FIVE (5) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 14 (J) AND 29 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:

SECTION 1. Two (2) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court and five (5) additional branches of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities in the Ninth Judicial Region are hereby created in the Province of Zamboanga del Norte, to be stationed as follows:

- (a) Two (2) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court in the Municipality of Sindangan and the City of Dipolog; and
- (b) Five (5) additional branches of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities in the City of Dipolog.

The Supreme Court shall assign the respective branch numbers for the newly created branches of the Regional Trial Court and the Municipal Trial Court in Cities.

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 branches of the Regional Trial Court and the Municipal Trial Court in Cities in the Municipality of Sindangan and the City of Dipolog, Province of Zamboanga del Norte.

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, and provisions for Halls of Justice or courtrooms to accommodate judges and court staff, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. Sections 14 (j) and 29 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.

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

Approved,