

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4998



Introduced by **Representative Jose Manuel “JM” F. Lagdameo**

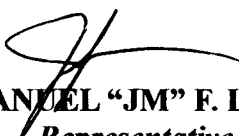
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article III, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution guarantees that “Free access to the courts and quasi-judicial bodies and adequate legal assistance shall not be denied to any person by reason of poverty.” Article III, Section 13 likewise guarantees that: “All persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative bodies.” These provisions oblige the State to ensure that the administration of justice should be accessible, effective, speedy, and responsive to the needs of the people.

Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, or the Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980, as amended, and other subsequent enactments, provide for the structure, organization, and jurisdiction of the Regional Trial Courts (RTCs). Over the years, these laws have created additional RTC branches owing to the growing caseloads and the necessity to decongest the dockets of existing courts. Despite these measures, the volume of cases filed before the RTCs continues to increase, resulting in further docket congestion and protracted delays in the resolution of cases within the purview of the RTC. This situation undermines the constitutional mandate of speedy disposition of cases and erodes public confidence in the judicial system.

The creation of an additional RTC branch in the Municipality of Carmen, Province of Davao del Norte under this measure is intended to address the increasing demand for judicial services by redistributing caseloads and bringing the courts closer to the people.

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


JOSE MANUEL “JM” F. LAGDAMEO
Representative
2nd District, Davao del Norte

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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 4998

Introduced by **Representative Jose Manuel “JM” F. Lagdameo**

AN ACT

CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE ELEVENTH (11TH) JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CARMEN, PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL NORTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(L) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980,” AS AMENDED

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

SECTION. 1. *Creation of an Additional Branch of the Regional Trial Court.* - One (1) additional branch of the Regional Trial Court in the Eleventh (11th) Judicial Region is hereby created and stationed in the Municipality of Carmen, Province of Davao Del Norte.

The Supreme Court shall assign the branch number for the newly created branch of the Regional Trial Court in the Eleventh (11th) Judicial Region.

SEC. 2. *Operationalization and Funding* – 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 one (1) additional branch of the Regional Trial Court in the Municipality of Carmen, Province of Davao del Norte. The Supreme Court shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act and, if warranted, the realignment of seats of existing branches and their territorial jurisdiction.

SEC. 3. *Appropriations.* – 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 courtrooms to accommodate judges and court staff, as well as funds necessary for the implementation of automatically-created prosecutor

positions pursuant to Section 13 of Republic Act No. 10071 or the "Prosecution Service Act of 2010" and appointment of public attorneys pursuant to Section 7 of Republic Act No. 9406 or the "Act Reorganizing and Strengthening the Public Attorney's Office (PAO), resulting from the creation of these courts, including appropriations for personnel services such as salaries, benefits, and emoluments for prosecutors, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. *Repealing and Amending Provisions* – Section 14 (l) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, or "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. *Effectivity* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,