



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

20th CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5095**



Introduced by Representative SITTIE SHAHARA "BAI DIMPLE" I. MASTURA

AN ACT

CREATING ONE BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT (RTC) AND ONE BRANCH OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT (MTC) IN THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DATU ODIN SINSUAT, PROVINCE OF MAGUINDANAO DEL NORTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 (M) AND SECTION 30 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article III of the 1987 Constitution is replete with provisions on *equal protection of the law, free access to the courts, quasi-judicial bodies and adequate legal assistance; and the right to a speedy disposition of their cases*, however these provisions are rendered useless due to the difficulties faced by litigants and residences who need the services of the courts as they make their way to the City of Cotabato; a direct result caused by the absence of any branch of the lower courts within the territorial jurisdiction of the local government unit of Datu Odin Sinsuat.

"Justice delayed is justice denied" – a well-acknowledged legal maxim denoting that if legal reparation or equitable relief to an injured party exists, but is not made available in a timely fashion, is effectively the same as having no remedy at all.

This bill therefore seeks the creation of one branch of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) and one branch of the Municipal Trial Court in the Province of Maguindanao del Norte to be stationed in the Municipality of Datu Odin Sinsuat, its capital.

The creation of these courts will greatly ease the load of pending cases docketed at the courts in the City of Cotabato and contribute to an even more efficient and effective administration of justice in the Province of Maguindanao del Norte.

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

SITTIE SHAHARA "BAI DIMPLE" I. MASTURA

Representative

Maguindanao del Norte, Lone District



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

SECTION 1. There is hereby created a branch of the Regional Trial Court and the Municipal Trial Court in the Twelfth Judicial Region, to be stationed at the Municipality of Datu Odin Sinsuat, Province of Maguindanao del Norte.

The Supreme Court shall assign the branch numbers each of the newly-created Regional Trial Court and Municipal Trial Court branch in the Twelfth Judicial Region.

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 newly-created branches of the Regional Trial Court and the Municipal Trial Court in the Municipality of Datu Odin Sinsuat, Province of Maguindanao 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 (MOOE), 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. Section 14 (K) and Section 30 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 a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,