



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6783

Introduced by Representative Arnan C. Panaligan

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to reapportion the Province of Oriental Mindoro into three (3) separate legislative districts to respond not only to population growth but also to the accelerating pace of economic development in the province.

The First District, particularly Calapan City, has become a key driver of economic activity in Oriental Mindoro upon its designation as the Regional Government Center for MIMAROPA. By virtue of Executive Order No. 682 by President Gloria M. Arroyo, Calapan City became the administrative and commercial hub of the MIMAROPA region, attracting substantial public and private investments, infrastructure development and human migration. This growing economic dynamism has magnified the demand for more responsive and localized governance, highlighting the urgent need for more equitable and effective legislative representation.

Based on the 2024 Census of Population conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority, the province of Oriental Mindoro shall be apportioned as follows:

First Legislative District of Oriental Mindoro	
City/Municipalities	Population
City of Calapan	148,558
Municipality of Baco	40,159
Municipality of San Teodoro	19,650
Municipality of Puerto Galera	42,301
Population of the Proposed New District	250,668

Second District of Oriental Mindoro	
City/Municipalities	Population
Municipality of Naujan	109,122
Municipality of Victoria	52,215
Municipality of Socorro	41,612

Municipality of Pola	35,771
Population of the Retained Municipalities	238,720

Third District of Oriental Mindoro	
City/Municipalities	Population
Municipality of Bansud	44,396
Municipality of Bongabong	77,540
Municipality of Bulalacao	46,439
Municipality of Gloria	52,296
Municipality of Mansalay	60,597
Municipality of Pinamalayan	90,420
Municipality of Roxas	58,428
Population of the Retained Municipalities	430,116

With a total population of 919, 504 residents, the Province of Oriental Mindoro shall be apportioned into three districts with the proposed new district exceeding the population required for the creation of a new district. The proposed reapportionment is expected to improve administration of the population and improve legislative access and public service delivery.

Under the proposed reapportionment, the City of Calapan and the Municipalities of Baco, San Teodoro, and Puerto Galera, with a total population of 250,677, shall comprise the new legislative district. The remaining Municipalities of Naujan, Victoria, Socorro and Pola, with a population of 238,720, shall be retained of the original district and shall be designated as the Second Legislative District. And the current Second Legislative District, without any change to its composition, shall be renamed as the Third Legislative District as a result of the reapportionment of the current First Legislative District.

This proposed measure shall align the province with the economic growth trajectory of the region, ensuring that each district can better leverage its development potential. Calapan City’s transformation into a regional growth node necessitates a legislative district that can prioritize and respond to its unique economic, logistical, and urban planning needs. Likewise, separating the urban and tourism-centric areas (Calapan, Puerto Galera) from largely agricultural municipalities (Naujan, Socorro, Pola, Victoria) allows for more targeted policy formulation and resource allocation.

Article VI, Section 5(3) of the 1987 Constitution provides that each legislative district shall comprise, as far as practicable, contiguous, compact, and adjacent territory, and that each city with a population of at least 250,000, or each province, shall have at least one representative. The Supreme Court interpreted this in various decisions and consistently ruled that the 250,000 - population requirement applies only to cities seeking to have their own congressional district, and not to legislative districts composed of municipalities or provinces.

In *Aquino III and Robredo v. Commission on Elections* (G.R. No. 189793, April 7, 2010), the Supreme Court upheld the creation of a legislative district in Camarines Sur even

though the population of the new district was below 250,000. The Supreme Court held that Congress has broad discretion in legislative apportionment for provinces. Also, in *Mariano v. COMELEC* (G.R. No. 118577, March 7, 1995), Supreme Court stressed that the phrase "as far as practicable" under the law provides the Congress with the discretion to reapportion districts based not solely on numerical equality but also on projected population growth, geographic integrity, and administrative feasibility.

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



ARNAN C. PANALIGAN



Republic of the Philippines
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HOUSE BILL NO. **6783**

Introduced by Representative Arnan C. Panaligan

**AN ACT REAPPORTIONING THE FIRST AND SECOND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
OF ORIENTAL MINDORO AND THEREBY CREATING A NEW LEGISLATIVE
DISTRICT FROM SUCH REAPPORTIONMENT**

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

SECTION 1. The composition of the current First (1st) and Second (2nd) Legislative Districts in the Province of Oriental Mindoro is hereby reapportioned in order to create an additional legislative district to commence in the next national elections after the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 2. The result of the reapportionment described in this Act are summarized as follows:

1. First Legislative District – The new legislative district shall be composed of the City of Calapan and the Municipalities of Baco, Puerto Galera and San Teodoro;
2. Second Legislative District – The remaining municipalities of the current First Legislative District shall be designated as the Second Legislative District, composed of the Municipalities of Naujan, Pola, Socorro and Victoria;
3. Third Legislative District – The current Second Legislative District, without any change in its composition, shall be renamed as the Third Legislative District, composed of the Municipalities of Bansud, Bongabong, Bulalacao, Gloria, Mansalay, Pinamalayan and Roxas.

SECTION. 3. *Holdover.* – The incumbent Representative of the First Legislative District of the Province of Oriental Mindoro shall continue to represent the First and the Second

1 Legislative Districts until the representative of the new district shall have been duly elected and
2 qualified.

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4 SECTION. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Commission on Elections
5 shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act within thirty (30) days after
6 its effectivity.

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8 SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, rules and regulations which are inconsistent
9 with this Act are hereby amended or modified accordingly.

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11 SECTION 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
12 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

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14 Approved,