

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6992



Introduced by: HON. BAMBI B. EMANO

AN ACT CREATING ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF TAGOLOAN AND EL SALVADOR CITY, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL, IN THE TENTH JUDICIAL REGION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (K) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980,” AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 16, Article III of the 1987 Constitution provides that “All persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative bodies.” This constitutional mandate embodies the long-standing principle that justice delayed is justice denied.

In the Province of Misamis Oriental, however, the steady increase in case filings, coupled with limited judicial infrastructure, continues to strain the capacity of existing courts. Despite the presence of several Regional Trial Court (RTC) branches within the province, the prompt and efficient administration of justice remains a significant challenge.

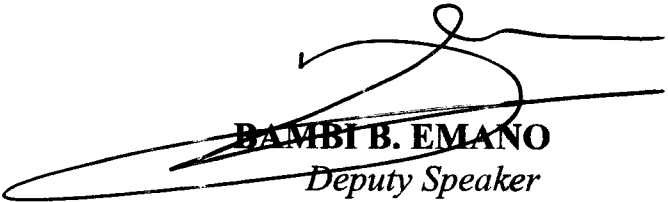
Per data from the Supreme Court–Office of the Court Administrator (OCA), the Municipalities of Tagoloan and El Salvador City currently have no Regional Trial Court and fall under the territorial jurisdiction of the RTCs in Cagayan de Oro City. At present, Misamis Oriental has twenty (20) operational RTC branches—fourteen (14) in Cagayan de Oro City, two (2) in Medina, two (2) in Gingoog, and two (2) in Initao. These courts remain fully functional but are burdened with heavy caseloads.

As of July 2025, the fourteen (14) RTC branches in Cagayan de Oro City collectively handle 7,686 pending cases. Meanwhile, across Misamis Oriental—specifically in Cagayan de Oro City, Medina, Initao, and Gingoog—a combined 9,009 cases remained pending as of September 2025. These figures illustrate the persistent congestion in the province’s RTCs and the urgent need to expand judicial capacity.

To address these concerns, this bill seeks to establish additional branches of the Regional Trial Court in the Tenth Judicial Region, to be stationed in the Municipalities of Tagoloan and El Salvador City, all in Misamis Oriental. The bill proposes to amend Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as the Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1981, and to appropriate the necessary funds for its implementation.

The creation of RTC branches in Tagoloan and El Salvador City is a necessary and timely reform. Tagoloan and El Salvador are rapidly developing industrial and commercial hubs strategically located within the province. The establishment of local RTC branches will (1) help decongest the overburdened courts in Cagayan de Oro City and neighboring municipalities, (2) facilitate the faster resolution of cases, and (3) reduce travel time, litigation expenses, and other burdens for litigants, witnesses, and law enforcement agencies in the area.

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



BAMBI B. EMANO
Deputy Speaker

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

Section 1. Creation of Additional Branches of the Regional Trial Court. There are hereby created additional branches of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) in the Tenth Judicial Region to be stationed in the Municipalities of Tagoloan and El Salvador City, Province of Misamis Oriental.

Section 2. Amendment. Section 14, paragraph (k) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as “The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980,” as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“(k) Twenty-four (24) branches with seats for the Province of Misamis Oriental and the Cities of Cagayan de Oro and Gingoog, with seats at Cagayan de Oro City, Medina, Gingoog City, Initao, Tagoloan, and El salvador.”

Section 3. Branch Number Designation. The Supreme Court shall assign the numerical designations of the newly created branches of the Regional Trial Court in accordance with its rules and administrative guidelines.

Section 4. Implementation 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 the new RTC branches. The funds necessary for their implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA). The funds necessary for the operation of the courts herein shall be appropriated and released upon the approval of this Act, subject to the organizational and staffing requirements to be appointed by the Supreme Court.

Section 5. Repealing and Amending Clause. Section 14, paragraph (k) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, as amended, and all laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 6. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,