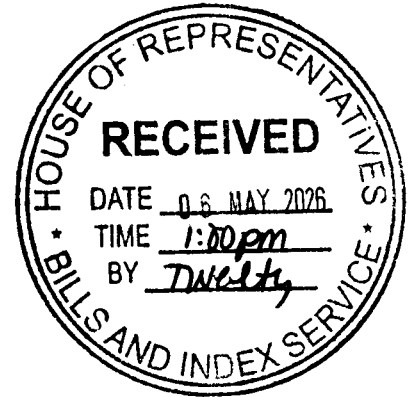




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH (20th) CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9127



Introduced by **REP. HENRY "INDY" F. OAMINAL JR., REP. JASON P. ALMONTE,**
REP. SANCHO FERNANDO "ANDO" F. OAMINAL

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Justice is a fundamental pillar of society; its importance is further displayed in Article III, Sections 11 and 16 of the 1987 Constitution which states: "*free access to the courts and quasi-judicial bodies and adequate legal assistance shall not be denied to any person by reason of poverty*" and that "*all persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial or administrative bodies*".

Despite these constitutional guarantees, Municipal Circuit Trial Court Branch 3, Misamis Occidental ("MCTC Branch 3") continues to face challenges such as inadequate manpower, resources, and accessibility constraints. These factors often contribute to overwhelmed dockets and delays in the resolution of cases, thereby affecting the timely delivery of justice.

MCTC Branch 3 is burdened with the triple jurisdiction over the municipalities of: 1.) Aloran, 2.) Panaon, and 3.) Jimenez. This "circuit" system, while once efficient, is now a primary driver of judicial delay. For example, by reason of the current arrangement, MCTC Branch 3 (covering the three municipalities) has a backlog of three hundred (300) to five hundred forty (540) cases every year.

This congestion creates a "justice at a standstill" scenario.

MCTC Branch 3 can no longer properly accommodate the cases of those covered by its multiple jurisdictions. The litigants now face longer wait times, endure the psychological toll of unresolved legal disputes, and are disproportionately inconvenienced. Presently, the citizens from the Municipality of Jimenez are subjected to undue hardship by having to travel to another town to have their own cases heard. This burden is further compounded by the fact that there is an intervening municipality between Jimenez and Aloran, requiring litigants to traverse an even

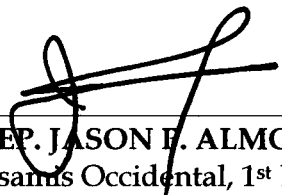
greater distance and incur additional time and expenses to access judicial services. Clearly, there is a need for a new and separate Municipal Trial Court ("MTC") for the Municipality of Jimenez, which will coexist and work in parallel with the existing MCTC Branch 3, which will retain judicial jurisdiction over the municipalities of Aloran and Panaon.

An MTC in the Municipality of Jimenez shall ensure faster case disposition and reduce court congestion for the municipalities of Aloran, Panaon, and Jimenez.

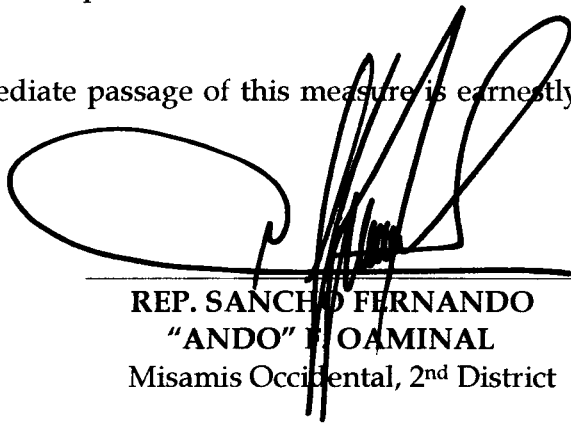
Notably, there is a courtroom in the Municipality of Jimenez that is temporarily occupied by personnel from MCTC Branch 4 (Sinacaban-Tudela), pending its transfer to its official seat in Sinacaban, Misamis Occidental. This courtroom may serve as the seat for the proposed MTC of Jimenez once the transfer is complete.

This bill, in sum, seeks to remove the Municipality of Jimenez from the judicial jurisdiction of MCTC Branch 3 while creating a new and separate MTC for the said municipality. The establishment of a separate and dedicated court will enhance the capacity of the local judiciary to manage its caseload more effectively, reduce docket congestion, and ensure the more expeditious disposition of cases for the benefit of the litigants.

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



REP. JASON F. ALMONTE
Misamis Occidental, 1st District



REP. SANCHITO FERNANDO
"ANDO" F. OAMINAL
Misamis Occidental, 2nd District



REP. HENRY "INDY" F. OAMINAL JR.
Asenso Pinoy Partylist



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Philippines

TWENTIETH (20th) CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9127

Introduced by **REP. HENRY "INDY" F. OAMINAL JR.**
REP. JASON P. ALMONTE
REP. SANCHO FERNANDO "ANDO" F. OAMINAL

AN ACT
CREATING A NEW MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT ("MTC") FOR THE
MUNICIPALITY OF JIMENEZ, SITUATED IN THE PROVINCE OF MISAMIS
OCCIDENTAL, IN THE TENTH JUDICIAL REGION, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE
JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980," AS AMENDED, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1.** The territorial jurisdiction of Municipal Circuit Trial Court, Branch
2 3 (MCTC Branch 3) of Aloran-Panaon-Jimenez in the Province of Misamis Occidental,
3 over the Municipality of Jimenez is hereby separated. An individual Municipal Trial
4 Court (MTC) having jurisdiction over the Municipality of Jimenez shall be created.

5
6 **SEC. 2.** All cases pending in MCTC Branch 3, Misamis Occidental that covers
7 the Municipality of Jimenez shall be transferred, tried, and decided by the new MTC
8 created herein.

9
10 **SEC. 3.** The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is hereby authorized to create
11 new and additional positions, to make changes in assignments of personnel, and to
12 effect such reorganization as may be necessary to fully implement this Act: *Provided,*

13 that the same shall neither diminish the salaries and other benefits nor undermine the
14 security of tenure of the incumbent judge and personnel of MCTC Branch 3.

15
16 SEC. 4. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the
17 Secretary of the Department of Justice, shall immediately include the funds necessary
18 to fully operationalize the court created by this Act in the Annual General
19 Appropriations Act. The funds necessary for the operation of the court herein created
20 shall be appropriated and released only upon the actual organization of the courts and
21 the appointment of its personnel.

22
23 SEC. 5. Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as "The Judiciary
24 Reorganization Act of 1980", as amended, and all other laws, executive orders, and
25 rules and regulations which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended,
26 repealed, or modified accordingly.

27
28 SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in
29 the *Official Gazette*, or in a newspaper of general circulation.

30
31 *Approved,*