

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE ) REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES ) Second Regular Session )

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SENATE

# COMMITTEE REPORT No. 221

Submitted jointly by the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance on MAR - 7 2024

Re: House Bill No. 8248

Recommending the approval of House Bill No. 8248, with amendments.

Sponsor: Senator Francis "Tol" N. Tolentino

#### **MR. PRESIDENT:**

The Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance, to which were referred **House Bill No. 8248**, introduced by Representatives Yu (D. G.), Ferrer (J.M.), et al, entitled:

#### "AN ACT

CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT AND TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF PAGADIAN, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(J) AND SECTION 29 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED" have considered the same and have the honor to report it back to the Senate with the recommendation that House Bill No. 8248, be approved with the following amendments:

1) On Page 1, line 11, Section 2, after the punctuation mark ".", insert a new sentence as follows:

**"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.";** 

2) On page 2, line 5, Section 3, between the words "staff," and "shall", insert the phrase:

"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 AND PUBLIC ATTORNEYS,";

3) On the same page, line 5, Section 3, after the phrase "General Appropriations Act.", insert a new paragraph to read as:

# "THE FUNDS NECESSARY FOR THE OPERATION OF THE COURTS HEREIN CREATED SHALL BE APPROPRIATED

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# AND RELEASED ONLY UPON THE ACTUAL ORGANIZATION OF THE COURT AND THE APPOINTMENT OF ITS PERSONNEL.";

4) On the same page, insert a new **Section 4** to read as:

"SEC. 4. IN VIEW OF THE PROPOSED TWO (2) ADDITIONAL REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS, THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE CITY PAGADIAN WILL HAVE EIGHT (8) BRANCHES. THE STAFFING PATTERN OF EACH BRANCH SHALL BE AS FOLLOWS:

No. of	Position Title	SG
Positions		
1	Regional Trial Court Judge	29
1	Clerk of Court V	24
1	Court Legal Researcher II	15
1	Interpreter III	12
4	Court Stenographer III	12
1	Sheriff IV	12
2	Clerk III	6
1	Process Server	5
1	Utility Worker I	1
13	Personnel	

THE STAFF COMPLEMENT OF THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT (OCC) SHALL BE COMPOSED OF TWENTY-FOUR(24) PERSONNEL, UNLESS THE SAME IS MODIFIED AS MAY BE DETERMINED BY THE SUPREME COURT.

IN ADDITION, THERE SHALL BE APPOINTED THE CORRESPONDING NUMBER OF PROSECUTOR/S AND PUBLIC ATTORNEY/S AND THEIR SUPPORT STAFF BASED ON THE RATIO OUTLINED IN REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10071 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9406, RESPECTIVELY.";

5) Still on the same page, insert a new **Section 5** to read as follows:

"SEC. 5. IN VIEW OF THE PROPOSED TWO (2) ADDITIONAL MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES (MTCC), THE MTCC IN THE CITY OF PAGADIAN WILL HAVE FOUR (4) BRANCHES. THE STAFFING PATTERN OF EACH BRANCH SHALL BE AS FOLLOWS:

No. of	Position Title	SG
Positions		
1	City Trial Court Judge	28
1	Clerk of Court III	22
1	Court Legal Researcher I	12
1	Interpreter II	10
3	Court Stenographer II	10
1	Sheriff III	10
1	Clerk IV	8
1	Clerk III	6
1	Process Server	5
1	Utility Worker I	1
12	Personnel	

THE STAFF COMPLEMENT OF THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT (OCC) SHALL BE COMPOSED OF EIGHTEEN (18) PERSONNEL, UNLESS THE SAME IS MODIFIED AS MAY DETERMINED BY THE SUPREME COURT.

IN ADDITION, THERE SHALL BE APPOINTED THE CORRESPONDING NUMBER OF PROSECUTOR/S AND PUBLIC ATTORNEY/S AND THEIR SUPPORT STAFF BASED ON THE RATIO OUTLINED IN REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10071 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9406, RESPECTIVELY.";

6) Finally, renumber the sections accordingly.

Respectfully submitted:

Chairpersons

SEN. SØNNY ANGARA

Committee on Finance Vice Chairperson, Committee on Justice and Human Rights

SEN. FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO Committee on Justice and Human Rights Vice Chairperson, Committee on Finance

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#### **SEN. MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY** Committee on Finance

Respectfully submitted:

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**SEN. RAFFY T. TULFO** Committee on Finance

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#### **SEN. LOREN LEGARDA**

President Pro Tempore Senior Vice Chairperson, Committee on Finance

"will interpellate"

SEN. AQUILINO'"KOKO" PI

SEN. JOEL VILLANUEVA Majority Leader

Minority Leader

HON. JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

Senate President

Ex Officio Members

**SEN. LOREN LEGARDA** President Pro Tempore Senior Vice Chairperson, Committee on Finance

SEN. JOEL/VILLANUEVA Majority Leader SEN. AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III Minority Leader

HON. JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI Senate President

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CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES NINETEENTH CONGRESS Second Regular Session

#### **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

H. No. 8248

BY REPRESENTATIVES YU (D.G.), FERRER (J.M.), CO (E.), QUIMBO, ACIDRE, BARONDA, BOLILIA, PALMA, PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, PUMAREN, SUAREZ, HERRERA, ABANTE, ALONTE, ALVAREZ (M.), ALVAREZ (J.), ARENAS, BAUTISTA-LIM, BERNOS, BONGALON, CABREDO, CAMPOS, CARI, CELESTE, CO (A.N.), CUA, CUARESMA, DE VENECIA, DEL MAR, FUENTEBELLA, GO (E.C.), GONZAGA, HARESCO, LACSON, LARA, NAVA, SALIMBANGON, TIANGCO, UMALI, VARGAS-ALFONSO, VILLARAZA-SUAREZ, VIOLAGO, ZAMORA (M.C.), ZUBIRI, ABALOS, ADIONG, ADVINCULA, AMANTE, ANG, ASISTIO, ATAYDE, AUMENTADO, BASCUG, BOSITA, CHATTO, CO-PILAR, COJUANGCO (J.), CRUZ (A.), CRUZ (R.), DAGOOC, DIMAPORO (S.A.), EUDELA, FORTES, FRESNEDI, GARCIA (D.), GARCIA (M.A.), GARDIOLA, GO (M.), GUTIERREZ, HERNANDEZ, KHONGHUN, LAGON (D.), LAGON (S.), LAZATIN, MACEDA, MAGSINO, MANIQUIZ, MATIBAG, MERCADO, NOGRALES (M.), OUANO-DIZON, PADUANO, PANALIGAN, PANCHO, PLAZA, PLEYTO, REVILLA (R.J.), RODRIGUEZ (E.), SALI, TALLADO, TULFO (J.), UNABIA, VARGAS, VERGARA, VERZOSA, VILLAFUERTE (M.L.), YAP (C.), AGARAO, BENITEZ, BUHAIN, CORVERA, DALOG, DUTERTE, ECLEO, FLORES, GOMEZ, GUINTU, KHO (R.), MARIANO-HERNANDEZ, MARIÑO, MERCADO-REVILLA, ORDANES, ORTEGA, REVILLA (B.), ROMULO, SALCEDA, SAULOG, SILVERIO, SORIANO, TOLENTINO, VELOSO-TUAZON, VILLAFUERTE (L.R.), YAP (EDVIC) AND YU (J.V.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 562

#### AN ACT

CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT AND TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF PAGADIAN, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(J) AND SECTION 29 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED

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

**SECTION 1.** Two (2) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court and two (2) additional branches of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities in the Ninth Judicial Region are hereby created and stationed in the City of Pagadian, Province of Zamboanga del Sur.

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The Supreme Court shall assign the respective branch numbers for the newly created branches of the Regional Trial Court and Municipal Trial Court in Cities.

8 **SEC. 2.** The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the Secretary 9 of the Department of Justice, shall immediately include in the Court's program the 10 operationalization of the additional branches of the Regional Trial Court and Municipal 11 Trial Court in Cities in the City of Pagadian, Province of Zamboanga del Sur. **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(j) and Section 29 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.

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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,