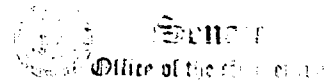


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )



24 MAR -6 P8 :05

**SENATE**

RECEIVED BY \_\_\_\_\_

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**COMMITTEE REPORT No. 215**

Submitted jointly by the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance, on  
MAR - 6 2024.

Re: Senate Bill No. 2594

Recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill No. 2215 taking into  
consideration House Bill No. 8257.

Sponsor: Senator Francis "Tol" N. Tolentino

---

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

The Committee on Justice and Human Rights, and the Committee on Finance,  
to which were referred, **Senate Bill No. 2215**, introduced by Senator Robinhood C.  
Padilla, entitled:

**"AN ACT  
AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1083, OTHERWISE  
KNOWN AS 'THE CODE OF MUSLIM PERSONAL LAWS OF THE  
PHILIPPINES', AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"**

and **House Bill No. 8257**, introduced by Representatives Dimaporo (M. K.), Ferrer  
(J. M.), et al., entitled:

**"AN ACT  
CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL SHARI'A JUDICIAL  
DISTRICTS COMPRISING THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION  
AND THE CENTRAL VISAYAS REGION, CREATING SHARI'A**

**DISTRICT COURTS AND SHARI'A CIRCUIT COURTS THEREIN,  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE  
PURPOSE ARTICLES 138, 147, AND 150 OF PRESIDENTIAL  
DECREE NO. 1083, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'CODE OF  
MUSLIM PERSONAL LAWS OF THE PHILIPPINES', AS  
AMENDED"**

have considered the same and have the honor to report it back to the Senate with the recommendation that the attached **Senate Bill No. 2594**, prepared by the Committee, entitled:

**"AN ACT  
CREATING THREE (3) ADDITIONAL SHARI'A JUDICIAL  
DISTRICTS AND TWELVE (12) SHARI'A CIRCUIT COURTS  
THEREIN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,  
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLES 138, 147, AND 150  
OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1083, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS  
THE 'CODE OF MUSLIM PERSONAL LAWS OF THE  
PHILIPPINES', AS AMENDED"**


be approved in substitution of Senate Bill No. 2215 taking into consideration House Bill No. 8257 with Senators Padilla and Tolentino as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted:

*Chairpersons*



**SEN. SONNY 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*

*Vice Chairpersons*

**SEN. PIA S. CAYETANO**  
*Senior Vice Chairperson,*  
Committee on Finance

**SEN. IMEE R. MARCOS**  
*Senior Vice Chairperson,*  
Committee on Finance

**SEN. CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**  
Committee on Finance



**SEN. RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA**  
Committee on Finance  
*Member, Committee on Justice and Human Rights*



**SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN**  
Committee on Finance



**SEN. CHRISTOPHER BONG GO**  
Committee on Finance  
*Member, Committee on Justice and Human Rights*



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



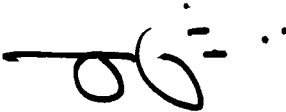
**SEN. RISA HONTIVEROS**  
Committee on Finance  
*Member, Committee on Justice and Human Rights*

*blay interpellate / propose amendments.*

**SEN. GRACE POE**  
Committee on Finance

**SEN. MARK VILLAR**  
Committee on Finance  
*Member, Committee on Justice and  
Human Rights*

  
**SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA**  
Committee on Finance

  
**SEN. JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO**  
Committee on Finance  
*Member, Committee on Justice and  
Human Rights*

*Members*

**SEN. ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S.  
CAYETANO**  
Committee on Finance

**SEN. FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO**  
Committee on Justice and Human  
Rights; and Committee on Finance

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

  
**SEN. ROBINHOOD C. PADILLA**  
Committee on Justice and Human  
Rights; and Committee on Finance

**SEN. MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID**  
Committee on Finance

**SEN. RAMON BONG REVILLA JR.**  
Committee on Finance

**SEN. GRACE POE**  
Committee on Finance

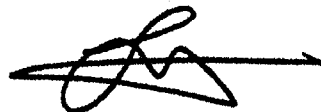
**SEN. MARK VILLAR**  
Committee on Finance  
*Member, Committee on Justice and  
Human Rights*

**SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA**  
Committee on Finance

**SEN. JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO**  
Committee on Finance  
*Member, Committee on Justice and  
Human Rights*

*Members*

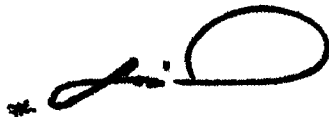
**SEN. ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S.  
CAYETANO**  
Committee on Finance



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Committee on Justice and Human  
Rights; and Committee on Finance

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Committee on Finance

**SEN. ROBINHOOD C. PADILLA**  
Committee on Justice and Human  
Rights; and Committee on Finance



**SEN. MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID**  
Committee on Finance



**SEN. RAMON BONG REVILLA JR.**  
Committee on Finance

*Ex Officio Members*

**SEN. LOREN LEGARDA**

*President Pro Tempore*

*Senior Vice Chairperson, Committee on Finance*

**“will interpellate”**



**SEN. JOEL MILLANUEVA**

*Majority Leader*



**SEN. AQUILINO “KOKO” PIMENTEL III**

*Minority Leader*

**HON. JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI**

*Senate President*

24 MAR -6 P8 :06

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

1083

**SENATE**

**S. B. No. 2594**

(In substitution of Senate Bill No. 2215, taking into consideration House Bill  
Nos. 8257)

Prepared by the Committee on Justice and Human Rights and the Committee on Finance  
with Senators Padilla and Tolentino as authors thereof.

**AN ACT**

**CREATING THREE (3) ADDITIONAL SHARI'A JUDICIAL DISTRICTS AND  
TWELVE (12) SHARI'A CIRCUIT COURTS THEREIN, AND APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLES 138, 147, AND  
150 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1083, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "CODE  
OF MUSLIM PERSONAL LAWS OF THE PHILIPPINES", AS AMENDED**

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

1           **SECTION 1.** Article 138 of Presidential Decree No. 1083, otherwise known as the  
2 "Code of Muslim Personal Laws of the Philippines", is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           Article 138. Shari'a judicial districts. - [Five] **EIGHT** special judicial districts,  
4 each to have one Shari'a District Court presided over by one judge, are  
5 constituted as follows:

- 1 (a) The First Shari'a District shall comprise the Province of Sulu;  
2 (b) The Second Shari'a District, the Province of Tawi-Tawi;  
3 (c) The Third Shari'a District, the Province of Basilan, Zamboanga del  
4 Norte and Zamboanga del Sur, and the Cities of Dipolog,  
5 Pagadian and Zamboanga;  
6 (d) The Fourth Shari'a District, the provinces of Lanao del Norte and  
7 Lanao del Sur, and the Cities of Iligan and Marawi; **[and]**  
8 (e) The Fifth Shari'a District, the Provinces of Maguindanao, North  
9 Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat, and the City of Cotabato[.];  
10 (f) **THE SIXTH SHARI'A DISTRICT, THE PROVINCES OF**  
11 **BUKIDNON, MISAMIS ORIENTAL, MISAMIS**  
12 **OCCIDENTAL, CAMIGUIN, THE CITY OF CAGAYAN DE**  
13 **ORO, AND THE PROVINCES WITHIN REGIONS XI AND**  
14 **XIII;**  
15 (g) **THE SEVENTH SHARI'A DISTRICT, THE PROVINCES**  
16 **WITHIN REGIONS VI, VII, AND VIII; AND**  
17 (h) **THE EIGHTH SHARI'A DISTRICT, NATIONAL CAPITAL**  
18 **REGION, THE PROVINCES WITHIN CORDILLERA**  
19 **ADMINISTRATIVE REGION, AND REGIONS I, II, III, IV-**  
20 **A, V, AND MIMAROPA.**

21 **SEC. 2.** Article 147 of Presidential Decree No. 1083 is hereby amended as follows:

22 Article 147. Permanent stations; offices. - (1) The Shari'a District Courts  
23 shall have their respective permanent stations in the following places:

- 24 (a) First Shari'a District, Jolo, Sulu;  
25 (b) Second Shari'a District, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi;  
26 (c) Third Shari'a District, Zamboanga City;  
27 (d) Fourth Shari'a District, Marawi City;



- 1 (e) Fifth Shari'a District, Cotabato City;
- 2 (f) **SIXTH SHARI'A DISTRICT, DAVAO CITY;**
- 3 (g) **SEVENTH SHARI'A DISTRICT, CEBU CITY; AND**
- 4 (h) **EIGHTH SHARI'A DISTRICT, MANILA CITY.**

5 **SEC. 3.** Article 150 of Presidential Decree No. 1083 is hereby amended as follows:

6 Article 150. Where established. — (1) Shari'a Circuit Courts shall be  
7 established as follows:

- 8 (a) Six such courts in the Province of Sulu;
- 9 (b) Eight in the Province of Tawi-Tawi;
- 10 (c) Ten in and for the Provinces of Basilan, Zamboanga del Norte  
11 and Zamboanga del Sur, and the Cities of Dipolog, Pagadian, and  
12 Zamboanga;
- 13 (d) Twelve in and for the Provinces of Lanao del Norte and Lanao del  
14 Sur and the Cities of Iligan and Marawi;
- 15 (e) Fifteen in and for the Province of Maguindanao, North Cotabato  
16 and Sultan Kudarat and the City of Cotabato[~~r~~];
- 17 (f) **FIVE FOR THE PROVINCES OF BUKIDNON, MISAMIS**  
18 **ORIENTAL, MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL, CAMIGUIN, THE**  
19 **CITY OF CAGAYAN DE ORO, AND THE PROVINCES**  
20 **WITHIN REGIONS XI AND XIII, TO BE STATIONED IN**  
21 **THE CITY OF VALENCIA, CITY OF GINGOOG, CITY OF**  
22 **OZAMIS, CITY OF MAMBAJAO, AND CITY OF CAGAYAN DE**  
23 **ORO;**
- 24 (g) **THREE FOR THE PROVINCES WITHIN REGIONS VI, VII,**  
25 **AND VIII, TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF CEBU, CITY**  
26 **OF TACLOBAN, AND ILOILO CITY; AND**

1           (h)     **FOUR FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION, THE**  
2                   **PROVINCES WITHIN CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE**  
3                   **REGION, REGIONS I, II, III, IV-A, V, AND MIMAROPA, TO**  
4                   **BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF MANILA, CITY OF**  
5                   **TAGUIG, CITY OF DAGUPAN, AND CITY OF PUERTO**  
6                   **PRINSESA;**

7     (2) The territorial jurisdiction of each of the Shari'a Circuit Courts shall be fixed by the  
8     Supreme Court on the basis of the geographical contiguity **AND ACCESSIBILITY** of the  
9     municipalities and cities concerned and their Muslim population.

10    **SEC. 4.** The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall immediately include in the Court's  
11    program the operationalization of the newly created Shari'a Judicial Districts, Shari'a  
12    District Courts and Shari'a Circuit Courts.

13    **SEC. 5.** The funds necessary for the implementation of this Act, including appropriations  
14    for personnel services such as salaries, benefits and emoluments for judges and court  
15    personnel, court operations under maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE),  
16    and provisions for Halls of Justice or courtrooms to accommodate judges and court staff,  
17    shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

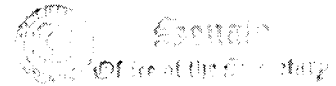
18    **SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.*** - If any portion or provision of this Act is declared  
19    unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall  
20    remain in force and effect.

21    **SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.*** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order,  
22    letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby  
23    repealed or modified accordingly.

24    **SEC. 8. *Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its  
25    complete publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



23 MAY 18 P3:53

**SENATE**  
S. No. 2215

---

Introduced by Senator Robinhood Padilla

---

**AN ACT**  
**AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1083, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS**  
**THE "CODE OF MUSLIM PERSONAL LAWS OF THE PHILIPPINES", AND FOR**  
**OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Section 17, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall recognize, respect, and protect the rights of indigenous cultural communities to preserve and develop their cultures, traditions, and institutions.

On 4 February 1977, President Ferdinand E. Marcos signed Presidential Decree (P.D.) No. 1083, otherwise known as the Code of Muslim Personal Laws, which aims to recognize the legal system of the Muslims in the Philippines as part of the law of the land and seeks to make Islamic institutions more effective, codify Muslim Personal laws, and provide for an effective administration and enforcement of Muslim personal law among Muslims.

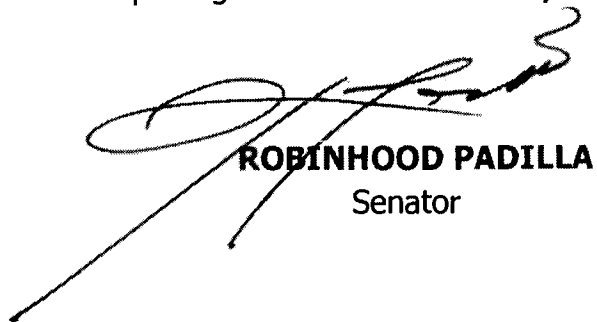
While P.D. No. 1083 establishes the creation of Shari'a courts, the growing number of Muslim Filipinos and the increasing rate of migration around the country calls for the need to establish additional judicial districts to attend to and resolve disputes involving Muslim personal laws.

In fact, the 2020 Census of Population and Housing conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority reveals that Muslim Filipinos now reside in various parts of the country. Of the total population of Muslim Filipinos, 64.3% reside in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), 10.1% in Region IX (Zamboanga Peninsula), 9.8% in Region XI (SOCCSKSARGEN), 6.1% in Region X (Northern

Mindanao), and 2.8% in Region XI (Davao Region). Outside of Mindanao, 6.4% of Muslim Filipinos reside in Luzon, with 2.5% in the National Capital Region (NCR), while 0.5% are in Visayas. As Muslim Filipinos continue to relocate across the country in search of better opportunities, the distribution of their population is expected to increase significantly in the coming years.

This measure, therefore, aims to provide Muslim Filipinos residing outside of existing Shari'a Judicial Districts with accessible, equitable, and speedy justice. Specifically, this aims to establish additional Shari'a Judicial Districts, stations for the district courts, and circuit courts. This is to ensure that our Muslim brothers and sisters across the archipelago will have better access to the specialized knowledge and expertise of Shari'a judges, promoting fair and equal treatment of Muslims under the law, regardless of their geographic location.

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



**ROBINHOOD PADILLA**  
Senator



23 MAY 18 P3:53

**SENATE**  
S. No. 2215

---

Introduced by Senator Robinhood Padilla

---

**AN ACT**  
**AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1083, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS**  
**THE "CODE OF MUSLIM PERSONAL LAWS OF THE PHILIPPINES", AND FOR**  
**OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 Section 1. Article 138 of Presidential Decree No. 1083 is hereby amended as  
2 follows:

3 Article 138. Shari'a judicial districts. — [~~Five~~] **EIGHT** special judicial  
4 districts, each to have one Shari'a District Court presided over by one  
5 judge, are constituted as follows:

6 (a) The First Shari'a District shall comprise the Province of Sulu;

7 (b) The Second Shari'a District, the Province of Tawi-Tawi;

8 (c) The Third Shari'a District, the Province of Basilan, Zamboanga  
9 del Norte and Zamboanga del Sur, and the Cities of Dipolog,  
10 Pagadian and Zamboanga;

11 (d) The Fourth Shari'a District, the provinces of Lanao del Norte  
12 and Lanao del Sur, and the Cities of Iligan and Marawi; [~~and~~]

13 (e) The Fifth Shari'a District, the Provinces of Maguindanao,  
14 North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat, and the City of  
15 Cotabato[-];

16 (f) **THE SIXTH SHARI'A DISTRICT, THE PROVINCES OF**  
17 **BUKIDNON, MISAMIS ORIENTAL, MISAMIS**

1 OCCIDENTAL, CAMIGUIN, THE CITY OF CAGAYAN DE  
2 ORO, AND THE PROVINCES WITHIN REGIONS XI AND  
3 XIII;

4 (g) THE SEVENTH SHARI'A DISTRICT, THE PROVINCES  
5 WITHIN REGIONS VI, VII, VIII AND MIMAROPA; AND

6 (h) THE EIGHTH SHARI'A DISTRICT, THE PROVINCES  
7 WITHIN NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION, CORDILLERA  
8 ADMINISTRATIVE REGION, REGIONS I, II, III, IV-A,  
9 AND V.

10 Sec. 2. Article 147 of Presidential Decree No. 1083 is hereby amended as  
11 follows:

12 Article 147. Permanent stations; offices. — (1) The Shari'a District  
13 Courts shall have their respective permanent stations in the following  
14 places:

15 (a) First Shari'a District, Jolo, Sulu;

16 (b) Second Shari'a District, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi;

17 (c) Third Shari'a District, Zamboanga City;

18 (d) Fourth Shari'a District, Marawi City;

19 (e) Fifth Shari'a District, Cotabato City;

20 (f) SIXTH SHARI'A DISTRICT, DAVAO CITY;

21 (g) SEVENTH SHARI'A DISTRICT, CEBU CITY; AND

22 (h) EIGHTH SHARI'A DISTRICT, MANILA CITY.

23 (2) The Shari'a District Courts may hold sessions anywhere within  
24 their respective districts.

25 (3) The provinces, cities or municipalities concerned shall provide  
26 such courts with adequate court office, supplies and equipment in  
27 accordance with the provisions of the Judiciary Law.

28 Sec. 3. Article 150 of Presidential Decree No. 1083 is hereby amended as  
29 follows:

30 Article 150. Where established. — (1) Shari'a Circuit Courts shall be  
31 established as follows:

32 (a) Six such courts in the Province of Sulu;

- 1 (b) Eight in the Province of Tawi-Tawi;
- 2 (c) Ten in and for the Provinces of Basilan, Zamboanga del  
3 Norte and Zamboanga del Sur, and the Cities of Dipolog,  
4 Pagadian, and Zamboanga;
- 5 (d) Twelve in and for the Provinces of Lanao del Norte and  
6 Lanao del Sur and the Cities of Iligan and Marawi;
- 7 (e) Fifteen in and for the Province of Maguindanao, North  
8 Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat and the City of Cotabato[-];
- 9 **(f) FIVE IN AND FOR THE PROVINCES OF BUKIDNON,**  
10 **MISAMIS ORIENTAL, MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL,**  
11 **CAMIGUIN, THE CITY OF CAGAYAN DE ORO, AND**  
12 **THE PROVINCES WITHIN REGIONS XI AND XIII;**
- 13 **(g) TWO IN AND FOR THE PROVINCES WITHIN**  
14 **REGIONS VI, VII, VIII AND MIMAROPA;**
- 15 **(h) FOUR IN AND FOR THE PROVINCES WITHIN**  
16 **NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION, CORDILLERA**  
17 **ADMINISTRATIVE REGION, REGIONS I, II, III, IV-**  
18 **A, AND V.**

19 (2) The territorial jurisdiction of each of the Shari'a Circuit Courts  
20 shall be fixed by the Supreme Court on the basis of the geographical  
21 contiguity of the municipalities and cities concerned and their Muslim  
22 population.

23 Sec. 4. *Appropriations.* — The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall  
24 immediately include in the Court's program the implementation of this Act. The funds  
25 necessary for the operation of the courts herein created shall be appropriated and  
26 released only upon the actual organization of the courts and the appointment of its  
27 personnel.

28 Sec. 5. *Separability Clause.* — If any portion or provision of this Act is declared  
29 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall  
30 remain in force and effect.

1            *Sec. 6. Repealing Clause.* — Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
2 order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent with the provisions of this  
3 Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

4            *Sec. 7. Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days  
5 following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general  
6 circulation.

Approved,





HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8257

---

BY REPRESENTATIVES DIMAPORO (M.K.), FERRER (J.M.), CO (E.), QUIMBO, MENDOZA, LIBANAN, ALBANO, DELOS SANTOS, GARIN, GONZALEZ, PALMA, PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, TEVES (J.), ALVAREZ (M.), ALVAREZ (J.), AQUINO, BAUTISTA-LIM, BERNOS, BONGALON, CABREDO, CAJAYON-UY, CARI, CO (A.N.), CUA, CUARESMA, DEL MAR, DUJALI, FUENTEBELLA, LARA, LIMKAICHONG, LOYOLA, NAVA, SALIMBANGON, SINGSON (R.V.), TIANGCO, UMALI, VARGAS-ALFONSO, YAP (ERIC), YU (D.G.), ZAMORA (M.C.), ZUBIRI, ABALOS, ALMARIO, AMANTE, ANG, ATAYDE, BASCUG, BOSITA, BUSTOS, CARDEMA, CHATTO, CHUNGALAO, CO-PILAR, CRUZ (A.), CRUZ (R.), DAGOOC, DIMAPORO (S.A.), DIONISIO, DY (F.M.C.), EUDELA, FORTES, FRESNEDI, GARCIA (D.), GARDIOLA, GO (M.), GOLEZ, GUTIERREZ, HERNANDEZ, KHONGHUN, LAGON (D.), LAGON (S.), LAZATIN, MACEDA, MANGAOANG, MANQUIZ, MATIBAG, MERCADO, NOGRALES (M.), OUANO-DIZON, PANALIGAN, PANCHO, PLAZA, PLEYTO, REVILLA (R.J.), RODRIGUEZ (E.), SALI, SANTOS, TAN (J.), TULFO (J.), UNABIA, VARGAS, VERGARA, VERZOSA, YAP (C.), BULUT-BEGTANG, DALOG, GASATAYA, GOMEZ, MARAÑON, ROMULO, SALO, TEVES (A.), VILLA, VILLAFUERTE (L.R.), YULO AND ZAMORA (Y.M.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT No. 571

---

**AN ACT**

**CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL SHARI'A JUDICIAL DISTRICTS COMPRISING THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION AND THE CENTRAL VISAYAS REGION, CREATING SHARI'A DISTRICT COURTS AND SHARI'A CIRCUIT COURTS THEREIN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLES 138, 147, AND 150 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1083, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "CODE OF MUSLIM PERSONAL LAWS OF THE PHILIPPINES", AS AMENDED**

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

1       **SECTION 1.** Article 138 of Presidential Decree No. 1083, otherwise known as the  
2 “Code of Muslim Personal Laws of the Philippines”, is hereby amended to read as follows:

3  
4       “ARTICLE 138. Shari’a judicial districts. – [Five] **SEVEN** special judicial  
5 districts, each to have one Shari’a District Court presided over by one judge,  
6 are constituted as follows:

7  
8       (a) The First Shari’a District shall comprise the Province of Sulu;

9  
10       (b) The Second Shari’a District, the Province of Tawi-Tawi;

11  
12       (c) The Third Shari’a District, the Province provinces of Basilan,  
13 Zamboanga del Norte and Zamboanga del Sur, and the Cities cities of  
14 Dipolog, Pagadian and Zamboanga;

15  
16       (d) The Fourth Shari’a District, the provinces of Lanao del Norte and  
17 Lanao del Sur, and the Cities cities of Iligan and Marawi; [and]

18  
19       (e) The Fifth Shari’a District, the Provinces provinces of Maguindanao,  
20 North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat, and the City of Cotabato[.];

21  
22       **(F) THE SIXTH SHARI’A DISTRICT, THE NATIONAL CAPITAL**  
23 **REGION; AND**

24  
25       **(G) THE SEVENTH SHARI’A DISTRICT, THE CENTRAL VISAYAS**  
26 **REGION.”**

27  
28       **SEC. 2.** Article 147 of the same law is hereby amended to read as follows:

29  
30       “ARTICLE 147. Permanent stations; offices. – (1) The Shari’a District  
31 Courts shall have their respective permanent stations in the following  
32 places:

33  
34       (a) First Shari’a District, Jolo, Sulu;

35  
36       (b) Second Shari’a District, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi;

37  
38       (c) Third Shari’a District, Zamboanga City;

39  
40       (d) Fourth Shari’a District, Marawi City;

41  
42       (e) Fifth Shari’a District, Cotabato City;

43  
44       **(F) SIXTH SHARI’A DISTRICT, THE CITY OF MANILA; AND**

45  
46       **(G) SEVENTH SHARI’A DISTRICT, THE CITY OF CEBU.**

47  
48       (2) The Shari’a District Courts may hold sessions anywhere within their  
49 respective districts.

50  
51       (3) The provinces, cities or municipalities concerned shall provide such  
52 courts with adequate court office, supplies and equipment in accordance  
53 with the provisions of the Judiciary Law.”

1       **SEC. 3.** Article 150 of the same law is hereby amended to read as follows:  
2

3               “ARTICLE 150. Where established. – (1) Shari’a Circuit Courts shall be  
4 established as follows:  
5

6                   (a) Six such courts in the Province of Sulu;  
7

8                   (b) Eight in the Province of Tawi-Tawi;  
9

10                  (c) Ten in and for the Provinces of Basilan, Zamboanga del Norte  
11 and Zamboanga del Sur, and the Cities of Dipolog, Pagadian, and  
12 Zamboanga;  
13

14                  (d) Twelve in and for the Provinces of Lanao del Norte and Lanao  
15 del Sur and the Cities of Iligan and Marawi;  
16

17                  (e) Fifteen in and for the Province of Maguindanao, North Cotabato  
18 and Sultan Kudarat and the City of Cotabato[.] ;  
19

20                  **(F) FOUR IN AND FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION, TO  
21 BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF MANILA, CITY OF SAN JUAN,  
22 CITY OF TAGUIG, AND QUEZON CITY; AND**  
23

24                  **(G) THREE IN AND FOR THE CENTRAL VISAYAS REGION, TO  
25 BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF MANDAUE, CITY OF LAPU-  
26 LAPU, AND CITY OF TALISAY, PROVINCE OF CEBU.**  
27

28                  (2) The territorial jurisdiction of each of the Shari’a Circuit Courts shall  
29 be fixed by the Supreme Court on the basis of geographical contiguity of  
30 the municipalities and cities concerned and their Muslim population.”  
31

32       **SEC. 4.** The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall immediately include in the  
33 Court’s program the operationalization of the newly created Shari’a Judicial Districts,  
34 Shari’a District Courts and Shari’a Circuit Courts.  
35

36       **SEC. 5.** The funds necessary for the implementation of this Act, including  
37 appropriations for personnel services such as salaries, benefits and emoluments for  
38 judges and court personnel, court operations under maintenance and other operating  
39 expenses (MOOE), and provisions for Halls of Justice or courtrooms to accommodate  
40 judges and court staff, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.  
41

42       **SEC. 6.** Articles 138, 147 and 150 of Presidential Decree No. 1083, otherwise known  
43 as the “Code of Muslim Personal Laws of the Philippines”, as amended, and all other  
44 laws, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended,  
45 repealed or modified accordingly.  
46

47       **SEC. 7.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official*  
48 *Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,