

13TH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

6 FEB 23 P4:20

SENATE

RECEIVED BY:

S. BILL NO. 2213

Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

Explanatory Note

This bill seeks to address the appeal of the people of Sultan Kudarat for the immediate reapportionment of their province into two districts.

At present, the province of Sultan Kudarat has a total population of 586,505 as of the 2000 census. Based on the 2.52 % annual growth rate, the provincial population was projected to have grown to 601,285 in 2004. These indicators prove that Sultan Kudarat is a fast growing political unit. However, since its separation in 1972 from the City of Cotabato by virtue of Presidential Decree No. 341, its representation in Congress has remained limited to one seat.

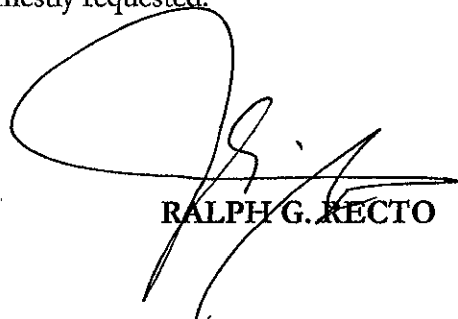
On the basis of its geographical population, it is proposed that the province be divided into two legislative districts with the following reapportionment: District I shall be composed of Columbic, Isulan, Lambayong, Lutayan, President Quirino and Tacurong, with a combined population of two hundred ninety-six thousand nine hundred seventy five (296,975) and District II shall be composed of the municipalities of Bagumbayan, Esperanza, Kalamansig, Lebak, Palumbang, and Senator Ninoy Aquino, with a total population of two hundred fifty-eight thousand seven hundred thirty (258,730).

Article VI, Section 5 (Par. 3) of the Philippine Constitution states that, "Each legislative district shall comprise, as far as practicable, contiguous, compact, and adjacent territory. Each city with a population of at least two hundred fifty thousand, or each province, shall have at least one representative."

Furthermore, paragraph (4) of the same provision clearly states that, "Within three years following the return of every census, the Congress shall make a reapportionment of legislative districts based on the standards provided in this section."

Hence, to meet the increasing demand of its people, the need to reapportion the province of Sultan Kudarat it must be prioritized. Moreover, the province is imbued with great potentials which can only be uncovered if we allow its people to be democratically represented in the House of Representatives.

The passage of this bill is thus earnestly requested.




RALPH G. RECTO

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AN ACT
REAPPORTIONING THE PROVINCE OF SULTAN KUDARAT INTO TWO (2)
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

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

1 **SECTION 1.** The Province of Sultan Kudarat is hereby reapportioned into two (2)
2 legislative districts to commence in the next national elections following the effectivity of
3 this Act. Henceforth, the municipalities of Columbio, Isulan, Lambayong, Lutayan,
4 President Quirino and Tacurong shall comprise the First District while the Municipalities of
5 Bagumbayan, Esperanza, Kalamansig, Lebak, Palimbang, and Senator Ninoy Aquino shall
6 comprise the Second District.

7 **SEC. 2.** All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof
8 inconsistent with the provision of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified
9 accordingly.

10 **SEC. 3.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at
11 least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

12 *Approved,*