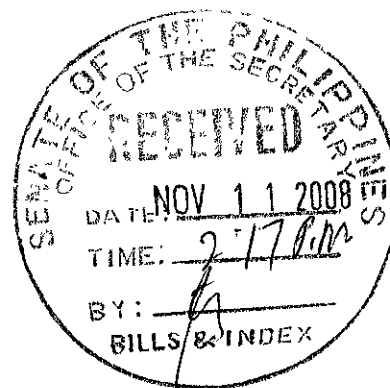


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )

SENATE

S. No. **2861**



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Introduced by Senator FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 16, Article III of our Constitution gives each person the right to a speedy trial, it provides that: "All persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative bodies."

The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980 (BP 129) allotted the corresponding number of courts per judicial region based on the exigencies existing at that time.

Twenty seven years have passed since the effectivity of BP 129.

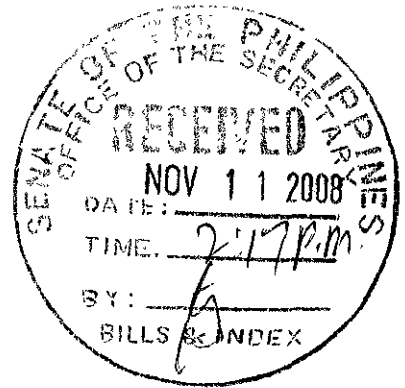
Because of the increase in our population and the increase in the volume of cases filed, our court dockets have been clogged and this has resulted in the delay in the resolution of cases.

In order to improve the disposition and administration of justice and to ensure the right to a speedy trial, the number of courts must necessarily be increased.

In view of the foregoing provisions, the approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.

FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

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



SENATE

S. No. 2861

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Introduced by Senator FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

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AN ACT  
CREATING ONE ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT AT  
COTABATO CITY, MAGUINDANAO AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS  
PAMBANSA BILANG 129, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY  
REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980 AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

SECTION 1. Section 29 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, as amended, otherwise known as  
the Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980, is hereby amended to create one additional  
branch and shall read as follows:

Sec. 29. *Municipal Trial Courts in cities.* — In every city which does not form part of a  
metropolitan area, there shall be a Municipal Trial Court with one branch, except as  
hereunder provided:

X X X

"TWO BRANCHES FOR COTABATO CITY;

X X X

SECTION 2. The Supreme Court shall number and assign the additional branch of the  
Municipal Trial Court in Cotabato City, in accordance with this Act.

SECTION 3. 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 additional Municipal trial court branch in Cotabato City, the  
funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,