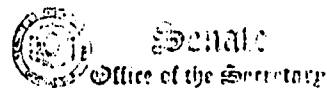


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
Second Regular Session



21 JAN 12 P1:51

SENATE

S. B. NO. 1982

RECEIVED

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Introduced by **SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

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**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 ELEVENTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF MATI, PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 14(L) AND 29 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

In the Philippines, delays in the delivery of justice has undermined the rule of law. Part of the problem is primarily caused by the lack of courts and judges that can hear and decide cases in a reasonable amount of time. Our existing courts, on the other hand, are overwhelmed by a deluge of cases. For instance, a judge in an RTC in the province has to read and decide more than 500 cases annually. First level courts have to decide 100 to 200 cases per judge during the same time period. In the cities and urban centers, the caseload is significantly greater.

In a region such as Davao Oriental, there is a need to upgrade the number of judges and courts that will handle judicial disputes. As of 2015, the region's population has grown to 558,958 people. This means that more resources are required from the government to supplement the resolution of legal disputes in a timely manner without sacrificing the ideals of justice, due process, and fair play. It is our resolution that there should be 4 more first level courts in the city of Mati, Davao Oriental to accomplish these noble aims

Thus, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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

- 1 **SECTION 1.** Two (2) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court and two (2) additional
- 2 branches of the Municipal Trial Courts in Cities are hereby created in the Eleventh Judicial
- 3 Region and stationed in the City of Mati, Province of Davao Oriental.
- 4
- 5 The Supreme Court shall assign the respective branch numbers for the newly created
- 6 branches of the Regional Trial Court and Municipal Trial Court in Cities.
- 7
- 8 **SEC. 2.** The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the Secretary of the
- 9 Department of Justice, shall immediately include in the Court's program the
- 10 operationalization of the two (2) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court and two
- 11 (2) additional branches of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities in the City of Mati, Province
- 12 of Davao Oriental the funding of which shall be included in the annual General
- 13 Appropriations Act.
- 14

1. **SEC. 3.** Sections 14(1) and 29 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as "The  
2 Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980," as amended and all other laws, rules, and  
3 regulations which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed, or  
4 modified accordingly.

5

6 **SEC. 4.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official  
7 Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

8

9 **Approved,**