

**FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES**
First Regular Session

8 41 - 1

SENATE

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 49

Submitted by the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance on MAY - 6 2008.

Re: Senate Bill No. 1981.

Recommending its approval without amendment.

Sponsors: Senators Escudero, Enrile and Zubiri.

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance to which was referred Senate Bill No. 1981, introduced by Senator Zubiri, entitled:


**"AN ACT
CREATING THREE ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL
COURT IN THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED AT
KORONADAL CITY AND AT THE MUNICIPALITY OF SURALLAH, ALL IN
THE PROVINCE OF SOUTH COTABATO, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980 AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR"**

have considered the same and have the honor to report it back to the Senate with the recommendation that it be approved without amendment.

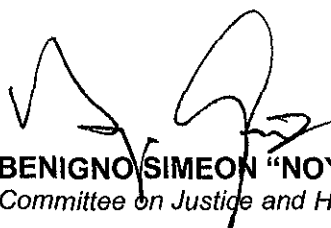
Respectfully Submitted:

Chairmen:


JUAN PONCE ENRILE
Committee on Finance
Member, Committee on Justice and Human Rights


FRANCIS "CHIZ" G. ESCUDERO
Committee on Justice and Human Rights
Member, Committee on Finance

Vice-Chairmen:



BENIGNO SIMEON "NOYNOY" AQUINO III
Committee on Justice and Human Rights



EDGARDO J. ANGARA
Committee on Finance

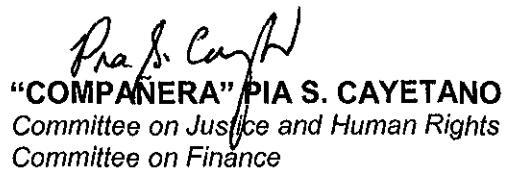


JOKER P. ARROYO
Committee on Finance

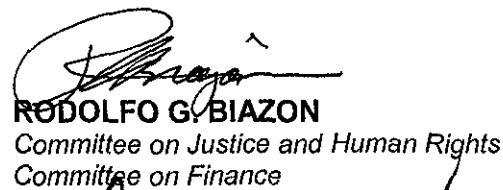


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
Committee on Finance

Members:



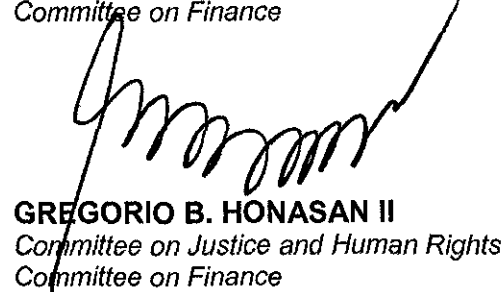
"COMPAÑERA" PIA S. CAYETANO
Committee on Justice and Human Rights
Committee on Finance



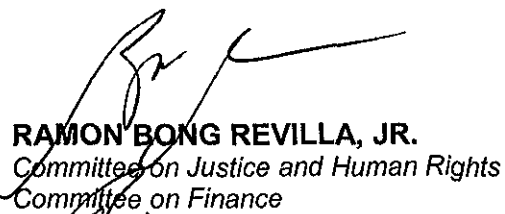
RODOLFO G. BIAZON
Committee on Justice and Human Rights
Committee on Finance



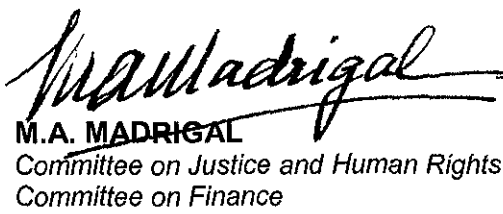
ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO
Committee on Justice and Human Rights



GREGORIO B. HONASAN II
Committee on Justice and Human Rights
Committee on Finance



RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.
Committee on Justice and Human Rights
Committee on Finance



M.A. MADRIGAL
Committee on Justice and Human Rights
Committee on Finance



RICHARD J. GORDON
Committee on Finance



MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Committee on Finance



JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI
Committee on Finance



PANFILO M. LACSON
Committee on Finance



LOREN B. LEGARDA
Committee on Finance



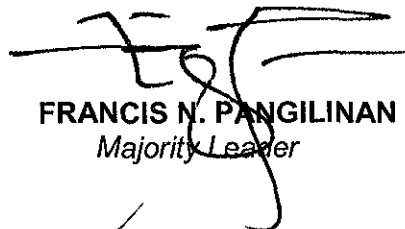
MAR ROXAS
Committee on Finance

ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Committee on Finance

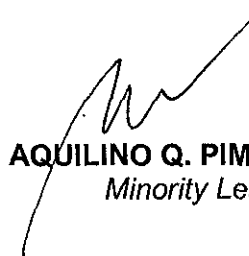
Ex-Officio Members:



JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
President Pro-Tempore



FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN
Majority Leader



AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL JR.
Minority Leader

Hon. MANNY VILLAR
Senate President
Senate of the Philippines
Pasay City

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

7 DEC 19

SENATE

SEC. VET. [Signature]

S. No. 1981

Introduced by Senator JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill provides for the establishment of three (3) additional regional trial court branches of the Regional Trial Court in the Province of South Cotabato: two at Koronadal City and one at the Municipality of Surallah, and for the appropriation of funds for their operationalization.

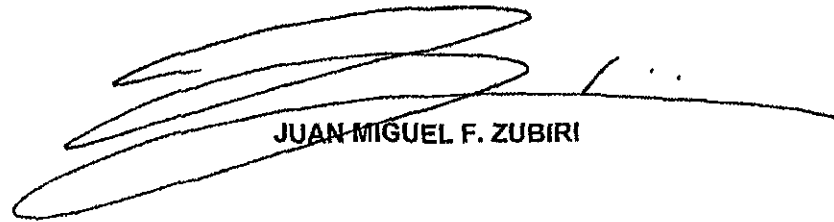
The Branch 26 of the Regional Trial Court in Surallah, South Cotabato was first established as a single-sala on March 1983, with jurisdiction over seven (7) municipalities in the Province of South Cotabato namely: Tantangan, Banga, Surallah, T'boli, Lake Sebu, Sto. Niño, and Norala. It likewise exercises administrative supervision over three (3) Municipal Circuit Trial Courts namely: the Municipal Circuit Trial Court of Banga-Tantangan, the Municipal Circuit Trial Court of Surallah-Lake Sebu and the Municipal Circuit Trial Court of Norala-T'boli-Sto.Niño.

Aside from being a court of general jurisdiction, RTC, Branch 26, as a single-sala court is automatically designated as a Family Court having exclusive original jurisdiction over criminal cases involving minors, or when one more of the victims is a minor at the time of the commission of the offense, petitions for guardianship, custody of children, adoption, annulment of marriage, declaration of nullity, legal separation, support of children, paternity suits and cases involving child abuse.

As of December 31, 2003, the number of cases pending before RTC, Branch 26 Surallah, South Cotabato totals to 865 criminal and civil cases. Based on the number of cases received and the number of case disposals during the ensuing six (6) month period, January to June 2004, the number of pending cases is still rising despite the average disposal of 18 cases a month. Hence, there is an urgent need to provide for an additional branch of the RTC in Surallah to unclog the dockets of Branch 26 with numerous cases and improve the disposition and administration of justice in the entire province.


As for Koronadal City, there is also a constant burgeoning of cases that exacts a heavy toll on the two existing RTCs (Branch 24 and Branch 25). For Branch 25 alone, it has a total of 804 cases. Almost the same number of cases is also being faced by other branch. These figures acquire greater significance when we consider the more than 3,000 cases now being handled by the Office of the City Prosecutor, the great bulk of which will be referred to these two branches, clogging more than ever its already clogged dockets. Only the creation of two additional branches for the fast growing city of Koronadal could we expect not only the speedy disposition of cases but the orderly and effective administration of justice.

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



JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. No. 1981

Introduced by Senator JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

AN ACT
CREATING THREE ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
IN THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED AT KORONADAL CITY
AND AT THE MUNICIPALITY OF SURALLAH, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF SOUTH
COTABATO, 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:

1 SECTION 1. Section 14, Paragraph (I) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, as
2 amended, otherwise known as the Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980, is hereby
3 amended to read as follows:

4 "SEC. 14. Regional Trial Courts.--

5 X X X

6 (I) **FORTY-FOUR [forty-one]** Regional Trial Judges shall be commissioned for
7 the Eleventh Judicial Region. There shall be:

8 X X X

9 "THIRTEEN [Ten] branches with seats for the Province of South Cotabato and
10 the City of General Santos, with seats at General Santos City, Koronadal, Surallah,
11 Alabel, and Polomolok;"

12 X X X

13 SECTION 2. The Supreme Court shall assign the additional branches of the
14 Regional Trial Court in South Cotabato: two in Koronadal City and one in the
15 Municipality of Surallah, in accordance with this Act.

16 SECTION 3. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the
17 Secretary of the Department of Justice, shall immediately include in the court's program
18 the operationalization of the additional regional trial court branches in the Province of

- 1 South Cotabato, with station at Koronadal City and at the Municipality of Surallah, the
- 2 funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
- 3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
- 4 Approved,

14th Congress
Senate Bill No. 1981
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCH (KORONADAL CITY)
Filed on December 19, 2007 by Zubiri, Juan Miguel F.

[Overview](#) | [Committee Referral](#) | [Leg. History](#) | [All Information](#)

Long title

AN ACT CREATING THREE ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED AT KORONADAL CITY AND AT THE MUNICIPALITY OF SURALLAH, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF SOUTH COTABATO, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980 AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Scope

Local

Legislative status

Pending in the Committee (12/19/2007)