

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



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. **3830**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

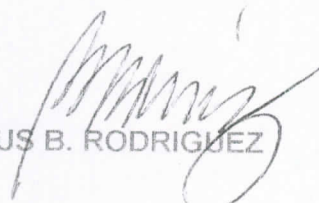
There are various indigenous groups in our country. The Cordillera peoples, also known as *Igorot*, are living in the highlands, foothills and river valleys of the Cordillera mountain ranges of Northern Luzon. *Tinguian*, *Isneg* and *Northern Kalinga* are found in the watershed areas of the Abulag, Tineg, and Chico rivers. These groups are largely swidden cultivators who depend on farming rice, root crops, and vegetables. Along the slopes of Mount Data and nearby areas are the *Bontoc*, *Sagada*, *Ifugao*, and *Southern Kalinga*. They are mainly wet-rice cultivators who grow their crops both on irrigated terraces and swidden fields. The Ibaloi and Kankanaey inhabit the southern region of the Cordillera and their subsistence economy is based on wet and dry agriculture.

The Negrito groups are the indigenous groups in Tagalog and Bikol region whose economies have depended on swidden agriculture, hunting and gathering, fishing, wage labour and trade. The Mangyans in Mindoro are clustered into the *Northern Mangyan* (*Tadyawan*, *Alangan* and *Iraya*) and the *Southern Mangyan* (*Buhid*, *Taobuid* and *Hanunuo*). A small group called *Bangon* is considered a branch of the *Taobuid*. Another small group, *Ratagnon* on Mindoro's southernmost tip, is closely related to the *Cuyonin* of Palawan. Generally, the *Mangyans* of Mindoro practice swidden agriculture combined with hunting, fishing, gathering and trade.

Mindanao is divided into *Moro* and *Lumad*. For the most part, the indigenous peoples in Mindanao basically subsist through swidden and wet rice cultivation, hunting, fishing, gathering and the trade in locally manufactured items.

Considering the distinct ways of life our indigenous groups have retained, there is a need to appoint judges belonging to indigenous groups in their areas.

In view thereof, immediate approval of this Bill is sought.


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. 3830

AN ACT

REQUIRING THE APPOINTMENT OF LAWYERS BELONGING TO INDIGENOUS GROUPS IN AREAS DOMINATED BY INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AS JUDGES

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

Section 1. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared policy of the State to give more representation in the judiciary to lawyers belonging to indigenous groups by appointing them as judges in their areas.

Section 2. Appointment of Judges in Areas Dominated by Indigenous Peoples. – In areas dominated by indigenous peoples, lawyers belonging to said indigenous groups shall be appointed as judges.

Section 3. Rules and Regulations. The Supreme Court shall issue rules and regulations to implement this Act. Said rules shall be published in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Section 4. Separability Clause. – Should any provision of this Act or any part thereof be declared invalid, the other provisions, so far as they are separable from the invalid ones, shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 5. Repealing Clause. - All laws, orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 6. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,