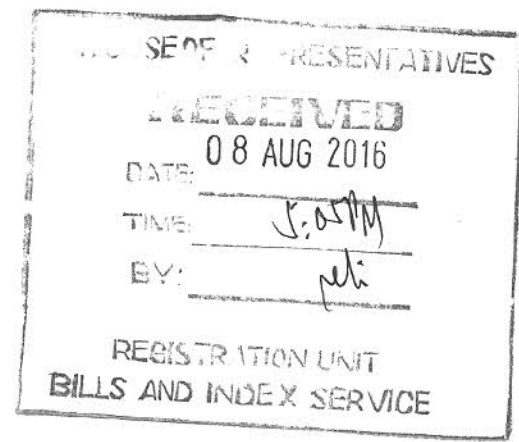


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2670**



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Introduced by Representative **ANTONIO R. FLOIRENDO, JR.**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**


This bill seeks to establish an additional Regional Trial Court (RTC) branch in the Island Garden City of Samal in the Province of Davao del Norte, hereby amending for the purpose Batas Pambansa Bilang 129, otherwise known as the Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980 and to conform with the provisions of the same with the creation of Island Garden City of Samal and Tagum City.

Created as a component city in 1998 by virtue of R.A. No. 8417, the Island Garden City of Samal serves as one of the major development centers for tourism, commerce, and governance in the Province.

As a result of thriving trade and commerce and continued population growth in the area, more cases have been submitted for consideration and resolution at the nearest RTC branch situated in the distant City of Panabo, Davao del Norte, further increasing the already voluminous number being held and heard. This poses impossibility for a judge of said sala to resolve cases speedily and without delay.

Moreover, residents of the Island Garden City of Samal who are litigants and witnesses at RTC-Panabo have no choice but to take an hour-long trip by boat and land transportation. This burden is tantamount to denying them close access to justice.

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

  
**ANTONIO R. FLOIRENDO, JR.**  
Representative  
2<sup>nd</sup> District, Davao del Norte

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**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL REGION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

**SECTION 1.** – Section 14 of Batas Pambansa Bilang 129, otherwise known as the Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“(1) [Forty-One] FORTY-TWO Regional Trial Court Judges shall be commissioned for the Eleventh Judicial Region. There shall be:

XXX

[Six] SEVEN branches with seats thereat for the Province of Davao del Norte AND THE ISLAND GARDEN CITY OF SAMAL AND THE CITY OF TAGUM, with seats at ISLAND GARDEN CITY OF SAMAL, CITY OF TAGUM, and Panabo.”

**SECTION 2.** – The Supreme Court shall assign the additional branch of the Regional Trial Court in the Island Garden City of Samal and the corresponding number in accordance with this act.

**SECTION 3.** – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act as determined by the Supreme Court is hereby authorized to be included in the annual General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

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

Approved,