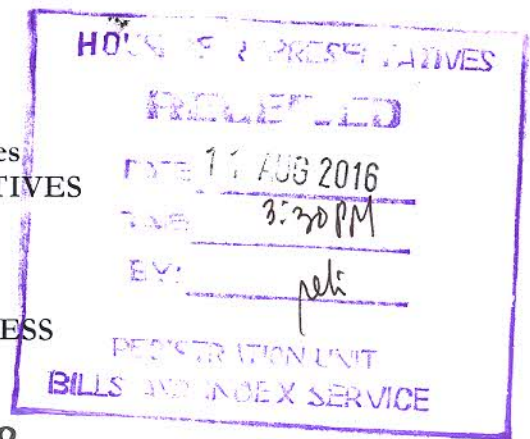


Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 2878



Introduced by REP. JULIETTE T. UY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to create an additional branch of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) with a seat at the Municipality of Villanueva, Misamis Oriental in light of the increasing number of cases being filed in the province. The geographical jurisdiction of the said RTC branch will include the eight municipalities of Tagoloan, Villanueva, Claveria, Jasaan, Balingasag, Lagonglong, Salay and Binuangan, all in Misamis Oriental.

The increasing population and the increased business activities in the eight aforementioned towns only reaffirms the necessity to create an additional RTC branch. The addition of an RTC branch at Villanueva will help in de-clogging the dockets of existing courts and generally improve the justice system in the province. This measure shall also help business entities and people from all walks of life gain convenient and less expensive access to the court and its services. Increasing the number of RTC branches from the present 19 to 20 in Misamis Oriental with seat in Villanueva town is beneficial and necessary in the interest of the service.

At present, there are 19 RTC branches in Misamis Oriental and the cities of Cagayan de Oro and Gingoog. Of this total, 14 RTC branches have seats in Cagayan de Oro City, two in Gingoog City, two in the Municipality of Medina and one in the Municipality of Initao.

The 14 RTC branches in Cagayan de Oro City have original jurisdiction over the RTC cases coming from the said city and the eight aforementioned municipalities on the eastern part of Misamis Oriental; and the Municipality of Opol and El Salvador City on western part of the province. Additionally, these 14 RTC branches in Cagayan de Oro City also handle the appeals of cases decided by the 10 branches of the Municipal Trial Courts in Cagayan de Oro City (5 branches), El Salvador City and Opol town (1 branch) and the eight towns from Tagoloan to Binuangan (4 branches).

It is also noteworthy that the local government of Villanueva has firmly pledged to provide a suitable parcel of land where the Hall of Justice for the said RTC branch can be built.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this measure is earnestly requested.

Approved,

REP. JULIETTE T. UY  
2<sup>nd</sup> District, Misamis Oriental

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AN ACT  
CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
IN THE PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL TO BE STATIONED AT THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF VILLANUEVA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14,  
PARAGRAPH (K) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE  
JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR

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

**SECTION 1.** There is hereby created an additional Regional Trial Court branch in the Tenth Judicial Region, with seat at the Municipality of Villanueva, Province of Misamis Oriental.

The Supreme Court shall assign the branch number of the newly-created branch of the Regional Trial Court in the Tenth Judicial Region.

**SECTION 2.** 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 an additional branch of the Regional Trial Court to be stationed at the Municipality of Villanueva, Province of Misamis Oriental, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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

**SECTION 4.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*