



Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **628**

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Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE JOEL MAYO Z. ALMARIO**


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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to create two additional branches each of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) and the Municipal Trial Court in Cities (MTCC) in the City of Mati, Davao Oriental.

In the past decade, the City of Mati has transformed itself to become the primary education and economic hub of Davao Oriental. As more opportunities became available, more and more people from across the southern regions migrate and continue to relocate to the city. The influx of people as well as the corresponding economic growth inevitably resulted in an increase in legal cases, both civil and criminal. Accordingly, the dockets of the judicial courts of the City of Mati have increased and the dispensation of justice is affected. The volume of cases currently pending before the two RTCs and the sole MTCC in the city affects the speedy dispensation of cases in a timely manner. This runs contrary to Section 16, Article III of the Philippine Constitution that assures each person of the right to a speedy trial. The creation of new courts through the passage of this bill will remedy the legal situation in the city and clear the court dockets, allowing not only for a speedy disposition of cases, but for the dissemination of justice and peaceful relations as well.

A similar version of this bill was previously filed and approved on third and final reading during by the House of Representatives during the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress. In consonance with the State's mandate of providing an effective mechanism for the efficient administration of justice, support for this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**JOEL MAYO Z. ALMARIO**  
Representative  
2<sup>nd</sup> District, Davao Oriental



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**AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS AND TWO (2) ADDITIONAL MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS IN CITIES IN THE CITY OF MATI, DAVAO ORIENTAL, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

*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 branches  
2       and two (2) additional branches of the Municipal Trial Court to be stationed in the  
3       City of Mati, Province of Davao Oriental, are hereby created in the Eleventh Judicial  
4       Region.

5       The Supreme Court shall assign the respective branch numbers for the newly  
6       created branches of the Regional Trial Court and Municipal Trial Court.

7  
8       **SECTION 2.** The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the  
9       Secretary of the Department of Justice, shall immediately include in the Court's  
10      program the operationalization of the additional branches of the Regional Trial Court,  
11      and the Municipal Trial Court to be stationed in the City of Mati, Province of Davao  
12      Oriental, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations  
13      Act.

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15           **SECTION 3.** Section 14 (I) and Section 29 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129,  
16 otherwise known as "The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980", as amended and all  
17 other laws, rules and regulations that are inconsistent with this Act are hereby  
18 amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

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

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23           *Approved.*