

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1816

Introduced by **HON. ROGELIO D. PACQUIAO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to transfer the seats of two (2) new Regional Trial Courts from the Municipality of Alabel, Province of Sarangani, to the Municipalities of Kiamba and Malungon, also in Sarangani.

Republic Act No. 10123 created five (5) new Regional Trial Courts in the Eleventh Judicial Region with seats in the Municipality of Alabel. The concentration of the RTCs in the capital municipality makes them highly inaccessible for the rest of the province. This is particularly so given the unique geography of Sarangani, composed of two areas separated by Sarangani Bay and connected by land only through General Santos City (which is outside the jurisdiction of the province). Kiamba and Malungon are therefore representative municipalities for each of the two separate areas of Sarangani.

Kiamba is a first-class municipality with a population of 61,058 according to the 2015 Census of Population by the Philippine Statistics Authority. A

separate RTC *sala* in this municipality would not only benefit Kiamba, but also the adjacent towns of Maitum and Maasim. These three municipalities comprise the eastern portion of the province. Meanwhile, Malungon is also a first-class municipality with a population of 103,604 according to the same census. Together with the municipalities of Alabel, Malapatan, and Glan, they comprise the western portion of Sarangani.

This proposed measure will promote access to, and improve the administration of justice by 1) reducing the caseload of Alabel RTCs; and 2) shortening the travel time and expenses of the litigants who are from the peripheries of the province. Furthermore, since at least two (2) of the five (5) new RTCs mandated by RA 10123 remain unorganized per latest information from the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC), now is the perfect time to transfer these seats before they are finally organized.

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


ROGELIO D. PACQUIAO

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HB. No. 1816

BY REPRESENTATIVE ROGELIO D. PACQUIAO

AN ACT TRANSFERRING THE SEATS OF TWO (2) NEW REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALABEL, PROVINCE OF SARANGANI TO THE MUNICIPALITIES OF KIAMBA AND MALUNGON, PROVINCE OF SARANGANI, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10123 AND FURTHER AMENDING BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Two (2) of the five (5) Regional Trial Court branches created in the Municipality of Alabel, Sarangani by virtue of Republic Act No. 10123, entitled "An Act Creating Five (5) Additional Branches of the Regional Trial Courts in the Eleventh Judicial Region to be Stationed at the Municipality of Alabel, Province of Sarangani, amending for the Purpose Paragraph (1), Section 14 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, as amended, otherwise known as the Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980" are hereby transferred: one (1) to the Municipality of Kiamba, Sarangani, and another one (1) to the Municipality of Malungon, Sarangani.

SECTION 2. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the Secretary of the Justice, shall immediately include in the Court's program the implementation of this Act. The funding therefor shall likewise be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The funds necessary for the operation of the courts herein transferred shall be appropriated and released only upon the actual organization of the courts and the appointment of its personnel.

SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.* – Section 14(1) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, as amended, as well as other laws, orders, issuances, rules and regulations or part thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,