



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 9841

BY REPRESENTATIVES ABUEG-ZALDIVAR, VELOSO, YAP (E.), LUSOTAN, REVILLA, SINGSON-MEEHAN, AGABAS, MACAPAGAL ARROYO, QUIMBO, ZARATE, ERMITA-BUHAIN, BAUTISTA-BANDIGAN, BIAZON, CALDERON, CUA, CUARESMA, DALIPE, DAZA, FARIÑAS I (R.C.), GARCIA (J.E.), GASATAYA, GO (E.C.), GONZAGA, GONZALEZ, HARESCO, LIMKAICHONG, REYES, SAGARBARRIA, SALCEDA, SUAREZ (D.), TEJADA, VIOLAGO, ZUBIRI, BARONDA, BENITEZ, BORDADO, BRAVO, CABATBAT, CARI, DAGOOC, DALOG, DELOSO-MONTALLA, DIMAPORO (A.), DIMAPORO (M.K.), GULLAS, HOFER, LABADLABAD, MACEDA, MALAPITAN, MARIÑO, NATIVIDAD-NAGAÑO, NAVA, OUANO-DIZON, TAMBUNTING, TAN (A.), TUTOR, CABOCHAN, NIETO, ORDANES, PEÑA, ROBES, ROMULO, TY (A.) AND VERGARA, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1089

AN ACT

CREATINGA SHARI'A JUDICIAL DISTRICT COMPRISING THE PROVINCE OF PALAWAN AND THE CITY OF PUERTO PRINCESA, AND CREATING THEREIN ONE (1) SHARI'A DISTRICT COURT TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF PUERTO PRINCESA, AND TWO (2) SHARI'A CIRCUIT COURTS TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF TAYTAY AND BROOKE'S POINT, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLES 138, 147, AND 150 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1083, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "CODE OF MUSLIM PERSONAL LAWS OF THE PHILIPPINES," AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Article 138 of Presidential Decree No. 1083, otherwise known as the
2 "Code of Muslim Personal Laws of the Philippines", is hereby amended to read as
3 follows:
4

5 "ARTICLE 138. Shari'a judicial districts. – ~~[Five]~~**SIX** special judicial
6 districts, each to have one Shari'a District Court presided over by one
7 judge, are constituted as follows:
8

1 (a) The First Shari'a District shall comprise the Province of Sulu;

2
3 (b) The Second Shari'a District, the Province of Tawi-Tawi;

4
5 (c) The Third Shari'a District, the Province of Basilan, Zamboanga del
6 Norte and Zamboanga del Sur, and the Cities of Dipolog, Pagadian and
7 Zamboanga;

8
9 (d) The Fourth Shari'a District, the provinces of Lanao del Norte and
10 Lanao del Sur, and the Cities of Iligan and Marawi; [and]

11
12 (e) The Fifth Shari'a District, the Provinces of Maguindanao, North
13 Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat, and the City of Cotabato[.] ; **AND**

14
15 **(F) THE SIXTH SHARI'A DISTRICT, THE PROVINCE OF**
16 **PALAWAN AND THE CITY OF PUERTO PRINCESA"**

17
18 **SEC. 2.** Article 147 of the same law is hereby amended to read as follows:

19
20 "ARTICLE 147. Permanent stations; offices. – (1) The Shari'a District
21 Courts shall have their respective permanent stations in the following
22 places:

23
24 (a) First Shari'a District, Jolo, Sulu;

25
26 (b) Second Shari'a District, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi;

27
28 (c) Third Shari'a District, Zamboanga City;

29
30 (d) Fourth Shari'a District, Marawi City;

31
32 (e) Fifth Shari'a District, Cotabato City; **AND**

33
34 **(F) SIXTH SHARI'A DISTRICT, PUERTO PRINCESA CITY.**

35
36 (2) The Shari'a District Courts may hold sessions anywhere within their
37 respective districts.

38
39 (3) The provinces, cities or municipalities concerned shall provide such
40 courts with adequate court office, supplies and equipment in accordance
41 with the provisions of the Judiciary Law."

42
43 **SEC. 3.** Article 150 of the same law is hereby amended to read as follows:

44
45 "ARTICLE 150. Where established. – (1) Shari'a Circuit Courts shall be
46 established as follows:

47
48 (a) Six such courts in the Province of Sulu;

49
50 (b) Eight in the Province of Tawi-Tawi;

51
52 (c) Ten in and for the Provinces of Basilan, Zamboanga del Norte
53 and Zamboanga del Sur, and the Cities of Dipolog, Pagadian, and

1 Zamboanga;

2
3 (d) Twelve in and for the Provinces of Lanao del Norte and Lanao
4 del Sur and the Cities of Iligan and Marawi;

5
6 (e) Fifteen in and for the Province of Maguindanao, North
7 Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat and the City of Cotabato[.] ; **AND**

8
9 **(F) TWO FOR THE PROVINCE OF PALAWAN, TO BE**
10 **STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF TAYTAY AND**
11 **BROOKE'S POINT."**

12
13 (2) The territorial jurisdiction of each of the Shari'a Circuit Courts shall
14 be fixed by the Supreme Court on the basis of geographical contiguity of
15 the municipalities and cities concerned and their Muslim population.

16
17 **SEC. 4.** The Chief Justice of the Supreme Courts shall immediately include in the
18 Court's program the operationalization of the newly created Shari'a District Court in the
19 city of Puerto Princesa and the Shari'a Circuit Courts in the municipalities of Taytay and
20 Brooke's Point, province of Palawan. The funds necessary for the operation of the
21 courts herein created shall be appropriated and released only upon the actual
22 organization of the courts and the appointment of its personnel.

23
24 **SEC. 5.** Articles 138, 147 and 150 of Presidential Decree No. 1083, otherwise
25 known as the "Code of Muslim Personal Laws of the Philippines", as amended, and all
26 other laws, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby
27 amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

28
29 **SEC. 6.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official*
30 *Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

31
32 Approved,