

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



23 MAY 18 P 3 :53

**SENATE**  
S. No. 2215

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Introduced by Senator Robinhood Padilla

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**AN ACT**  
**AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1083, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS**  
**THE "CODE OF MUSLIM PERSONAL LAWS OF THE PHILIPPINES", AND FOR**  
**OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Section 17, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall recognize, respect, and protect the rights of indigenous cultural communities to preserve and develop their cultures, traditions, and institutions.

On 4 February 1977, President Ferdinand E. Marcos signed Presidential Decree (P.D.) No. 1083, otherwise known as the Code of Muslim Personal Laws, which aims to recognize the legal system of the Muslims in the Philippines as part of the law of the land and seeks to make Islamic institutions more effective, codify Muslim Personal laws, and provide for an effective administration and enforcement of Muslim personal law among Muslims.

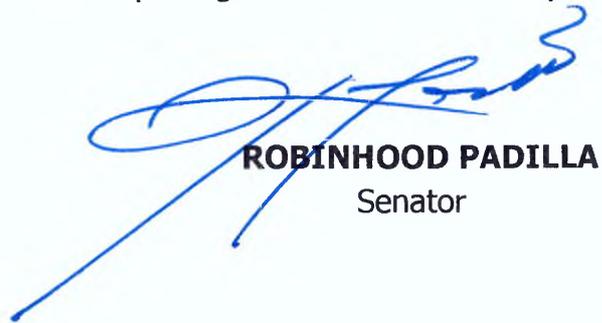
While P.D. No. 1083 establishes the creation of Shari'a courts, the growing number of Muslim Filipinos and the increasing rate of migration around the country calls for the need to establish additional judicial districts to attend to and resolve disputes involving Muslim personal laws.

In fact, the 2020 Census of Population and Housing conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority reveals that Muslim Filipinos now reside in various parts of the country. Of the total population of Muslim Filipinos, 64.3% reside in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), 10.1% in Region IX (Zamboanga Peninsula), 9.8% in Region XI (SOCCSKSARGEN), 6.1% in Region X (Northern

Mindanao), and 2.8% in Region XI (Davao Region). Outside of Mindanao, 6.4% of Muslim Filipinos reside in Luzon, with 2.5% in the National Capital Region (NCR), while 0.5% are in Visayas. As Muslim Filipinos continue to relocate across the country in search of better opportunities, the distribution of their population is expected to increase significantly in the coming years.

This measure, therefore, aims to provide Muslim Filipinos residing outside of existing Shari'a Judicial Districts with accessible, equitable, and speedy justice. Specifically, this aims to establish additional Shari'a Judicial Districts, stations for the district courts, and circuit courts. This is to ensure that our Muslim brothers and sisters across the archipelago will have better access to the specialized knowledge and expertise of Shari'a judges, promoting fair and equal treatment of Muslims under the law, regardless of their geographic location.

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



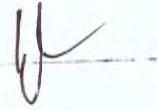
**ROBINHOOD PADILLA**  
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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

1 Section 1. Article 138 of Presidential Decree No. 1083 is hereby amended as  
2 follows:

3 Article 138. Shari'a judicial districts. — [~~Five~~] **EIGHT** special judicial  
4 districts, each to have one Shari'a District Court presided over by one  
5 judge, are constituted as follows:

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

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

8 (c) The Third Shari'a District, the Province of Basilan, Zamboanga  
9 del Norte and Zamboanga del Sur, and the Cities of Dipolog,  
10 Pagadian and Zamboanga;

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

13 (e) The Fifth Shari'a District, the Provinces of Maguindanao,  
14 North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat, and the City of  
15 Cotabato[-];

16 **(f) THE SIXTH SHARI'A DISTRICT, THE PROVINCES OF**  
17 **BUKIDNON, MISAMIS ORIENTAL, MISAMIS**

1 OCCIDENTAL, CAMIGUIN, THE CITY OF CAGAYAN DE  
2 ORO, AND THE PROVINCES WITHIN REGIONS XI AND  
3 XIII;

4 (g) THE SEVENTH SHARI'A DISTRICT, THE PROVINCES  
5 WITHIN REGIONS VI, VII, VIII AND MIMAROPA; AND

6 (h) THE EIGHTH SHARI'A DISTRICT, THE PROVINCES  
7 WITHIN NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION, CORDILLERA  
8 ADMINISTRATIVE REGION, REGIONS I, II, III, IV-A,  
9 AND V.

10 Sec. 2. Article 147 of Presidential Decree No. 1083 is hereby amended as  
11 follows:

12 Article 147. Permanent stations; offices. — (1) The Shari'a District  
13 Courts shall have their respective permanent stations in the following  
14 places:

15 (a) First Shari'a District, Jolo, Sulu;

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

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

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

19 (e) Fifth Shari'a District, Cotabato City;

20 (f) **SIXTH SHARI'A DISTRICT, DAVAO CITY;**

21 (g) **SEVENTH SHARI'A DISTRICT, CEBU CITY; AND**

22 (h) **EIGHTH SHARI'A DISTRICT, MANILA CITY.**

23 (2) The Shari'a District Courts may hold sessions anywhere within  
24 their respective districts.

25 (3) The provinces, cities or municipalities concerned shall provide  
26 such courts with adequate court office, supplies and equipment in  
27 accordance with the provisions of the Judiciary Law.

28 Sec. 3. Article 150 of Presidential Decree No. 1083 is hereby amended as  
29 follows:

30 Article 150. Where established. — (1) Shari'a Circuit Courts shall be  
31 established as follows:

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

- 1 (b) Eight in the Province of Tawi-Tawi;  
2 (c) Ten in and for the Provinces of Basilan, Zamboanga del  
3 Norte and Zamboanga del Sur, and the Cities of Dipolog,  
4 Pagadian, and Zamboanga;  
5 (d) Twelve in and for the Provinces of Lanao del Norte and  
6 Lanao del Sur and the Cities of Iligan and Marawi;  
7 (e) Fifteen in and for the Province of Maguindanao, North  
8 Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat and the City of Cotabato[-];  
9 **(f) FIVE IN AND FOR THE PROVINCES OF BUKIDNON,**  
10 **MISAMIS ORIENTAL, MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL,**  
11 **CAMIGUIN, THE CITY OF CAGAYAN DE ORO, AND**  
12 **THE PROVINCES WITHIN REGIONS XI AND XIII;**  
13 **(g) TWO IN AND FOR THE PROVINCES WITHIN**  
14 **REGIONS VI, VII, VIII AND MIMAROPA;**  
15 **(h) FOUR IN AND FOR THE PROVINCES WITHIN**  
16 **NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION, CORDILLERA**  
17 **ADMINISTRATIVE REGION, REGIONS I, II, III, IV-**  
18 **A, AND V.**

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

23 *Sec. 4. Appropriations.* — The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall  
24 immediately include in the Court's program the implementation of this Act. The funds  
25 necessary for the operation of the courts herein created shall be appropriated and  
26 released only upon the actual organization of the courts and the appointment of its  
27 personnel.

28 *Sec. 5. Separability Clause.* — If any portion or provision of this Act is declared  
29 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall  
30 remain in force and effect.

1            *Sec. 6. Repealing Clause.* — Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
2 order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent with the provisions of this  
3 Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

4            *Sec. 7. Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days  
5 following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general  
6 circulation.

Approved,