

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2798

Introduced by Representative Nerissa Corazon Soon-Ruiz, M.D.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As legal luminaries have it: "Justice delayed is justice denied."

Sadly, this deplorable condition can be gleaned in the courts of Lapu-lapu City, Province of Cebu, and off sets the great leaps achieved by the city in terms of economic activity and growth in recent years.

The existing three regional trial court branches and the lone municipal trial court in the above-mentioned city which also handle cases from the municipality of Cordova, are classic examples of the sad state of the delivery of justice in the country. These courts are presently deluged with pending and active cases beyond their capacity to resolve.

Presently, the lone municipal trial court is saddled with more than three thousand unresolved cases, almost half of which have been pending for more than five years. As of June 2004, RTC Branch 27 has 1226 pending cases, Branch 53 has 1802 and Branch 54 has 1257. From January to June 2004, 245 new cases were filed with Branch 27, 387 with Branch 53 and 257 with branch 54.

The figures above are way beyond the ideal caseload of 150 cases pegged by the Office of the Court Administrator and at the average of 52.73 cases filed every month in the Lapu-lapu City courts, unnecessary delays in the disposition of cases are inevitable. Hence, creating additional courts is definitely necessary not to attain the desired pace but only to attain a tolerable level in the delivery of justice.

Owing to the importance of an efficient justice system in keeping law and order, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


NERISSA CORAZON SOON-RUIZ, M.D.

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**AN ACT CREATING TWO ADDITIONAL REGIONAL AND MUNICIPAL
TRIAL COURT BRANCHES IN LAPU-LAPU CITY, PROVINCE OF CEBU AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. *Creation.* - In addition to the existing municipal and regional trial courts in Lapu-lapu City, Cebu, there are hereby created additional two (2) municipal and two (2) regional trial court branches.

SECTION 2. *Jurisdiction* - The courts herein created shall have territorial jurisdiction over the city of Lapu-lapu and the municipality of Cordova, Province of Cebu.

SECTION 3. *Assignment of Cases.* - Upon the effectivity of this Act and subject to the guidelines to be issued by the Supreme Court of the Republic of the Philippines to implement the provisions of this Act, the existing Regional Trial Court branches 27, 53 and 54 in Lapu-lapu City shall assign equally such number of pending and active cases as the Supreme Court may determine to the two (2) regional trial court branches herein created. The existing Municipal Trial Court in Cities Branch 1 shall likewise assign equally such number of pending and active cases as the Supreme Court may determine to the two (2) municipal trial court branches herein created.

SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Supreme Court shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 5. *Appropriations.* - The necessary amount for the creation of the courts herein mandated shall be charged against the appropriations for the Judiciary for the year immediately succeeding this Act. Thereafter, a sufficient sum for their maintenance and operation shall be charged against the annual appropriations of the Judiciary.

SECTION 6. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect immediately upon its approval subject to publication requirements.