

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 688

Introduced by Honorable Rex Gatchalian

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks the creation of one (1) additional Regional Trial Court and one (1) Metropolitan Trial Court, both branches with station at Valenzuela City, amending for the purpose Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as the "Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1981", as amended by Republic Act 7154, and appropriating funds therefor.

It is not uncommon to find trial courts saddled with cases that are more than they can handle. Although the ideal number of cases which should be handled by each branch of a court is from one hundred and fifty (150) to two hundred (200), records will show that existing courts handle an average of one thousand (1,000) to two thousand (2,000) cases. This problem plagues the judicial system.

When the court dockets are clogged with cases it impedes the inflow of new cases and the hastening of proceedings of those that are already pending. We delay the administration of justice.

The existing three (3) branches of the Regional Trial Court and two (2) branches of the Metropolitan Trial Court are inadequate to serve the populace of Valenzuela City. With the conversion of Valenzuela into a Highly Urbanized City, its diversified commercial and economic prosperity continues to attract the influx of settlers/residents. As a result, additional cases have been filed and these courts, already saddled, must still face the enormous task of disposing of these ever increasing numbers of cases.

Thus, in order to address this systemic problem, it is but only imperative to create the additional Regional Trial Court and Metropolitan Trial Court stationed in Valenzuela City.

In view of the foregoing considerations, the immediate approval of this bill is highly recommended.


REX GATCHALIAN
1st District, Valenzuela City

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AN ACT
CREATING AN ADDITIONAL REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCH
AND A METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT BRANCH IN THE CITY OF
VALENZUELA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA
BLG.129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION
ACT OF 1981" AS AMENDED BY
REPUBLIC ACT 7154 AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

Section 1. Section 14 paragraph (d) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as the Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1981, as amended by Section 4 of Republic Act 7154, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

X X X X

(d) **TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-SEVEN** Regional Trial Judges shall be commissioned for the National Capital Judicial Region. There shall be:

X X X X

FOUR BRANCHES FOR THE CITY OF VALENZUELA, WITH SEATS THEREAT.

X X X X

Section 2. Section 27 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as the Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1981, as amended to read as follows:

Section 27. Metropolitan Trial Courts of the National Capital Region. – There shall be a Metropolitan Trial Court in the National Capital Region, to be known as the Metropolitan Trial Court of Metro Manila, which shall be composed of **EIGHTY-THREE BRANCHES**. There shall be:

X X X X

THREE BRANCHES FOR VALENZUELA WITH SEATS THEREAT

X X X X

Section 3. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Justice shall immediately include in the Court's program the operationalization of one (1) additional Regional Trial Court branch and one (1) Metropolitan Trial Court for the City of Valenzuela, the amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be included in the appropriations the Supreme Court in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

Section 4. The Supreme Court shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Section 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,