

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

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2395

Introduced by Honorable TOBIAS REYNALD M. TIANGCO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to create three branches of Regional Trial Courts and two additional branches of Municipal Trial Courts in the City of Navotas. At present, the Regional Trial Courts of Malabon-Navotas continues to exercise territorial jurisdiction over the City of Navotas despite the fact of its conversion from a municipality to a city as early as 2007. The City also has only one Municipal Trial Court with pending cases.

The significant increase in the number of inhabitants in the City of Navotas, its coastal configuration that is strategic for trade and transportation, has given way to an upsurge of social, political, economic, and commercial activities within its locale. This infused vitality consequent to Navotas' progress as a port city inevitably results in an influx of novel, debatable issues that may only be addressed and adjudicated by courts of law.

Unfortunately, the *status quo* is hardly sufficient to address this growing necessity for legal institutions within Navotas City. To date, it is comprised of fourteen (14) barangays with an increasing population that deserves no less than the constitutionally mandated right to speedy trial and speedy disposition of their cases.

While existing laws do have safeguards to ensure the prompt and speedy disposition of cases and timely delivery of efficient justice, this representation humbly submits that it is still essential to provide supplementary reinforcement to the RTC of Malabon-Navotas through the establishment of regional trial courts for solely for the City of Navotas. This will help de-clog court dockets and give the judiciary more time to study different legal issues pending before them.

This bill is hereby presented to amend the provisions of Section 14, paragraph (d) and Section 27 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 29 or "The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980" for the establishment of three (3) additional regional trial courts and two (2) more municipal trial courts in Navotas City.

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


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AN ACT CREATING THREE (3) BRANCHES OF REGIONAL TRIAL COURT AND TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN THE CITY OF NAVOTAS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 14 AND 29 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED, AND AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

SECTION 1- Section 14 of Batas Pambansa Bilang 129, otherwise known as the "Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980," as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 14. Regional Trial Courts. –

x x x

THREE BRANCHES FOR NAVOTAS CITY

x x x

SECTION 2- Section 29 of Batas Pambansa Bilang 129, otherwise known as the "Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980," as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 29. Municipal Trial Courts in Cities. –

x x x

(ONE) THREE BRANCHES IN NAVOTAS CITY

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 the branches of the Regional Trial Court and additional branches of Municipal Trial Court in the City of Navotas, the funding of which shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 4- The Supreme Court shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act and if warranted, the realignment of the seats of existing branches and their territorial jurisdiction.

Section 5.- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in a newspaper of general circulation.