

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

15th Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4265

Introduced by Representative Malapitan

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Caloocan City, with a fast-growing population estimated to be at 1.3 million this year, only has 13 existing Regional Trial Court (RTC) branches. With a total of almost 5,000 criminal and civil cases in the Caloocan City Regional Courts last year, it has become evident that the sheer volume of cases, coupled with the relatively small number of trial courts, has been adversely affecting the effective dispensation of justice for Caloocan City residents.

For the past several years, Caloocan City's population has been growing at a very hectic pace, mainly due to the high rate of migration towards the northern portion of the city, which has been dubbed as the fast frontier separating the urban from the rural outskirts of Metro Manila. Moreover, Caloocan City is the site of various resettlement and relocation programs of the government, towards which a large number of the population from the provinces and the rural areas have been migrating and settling with their families.

In view hereof, the creation of four (4) additional Regional Trial Court branches in Caloocan City, with stations at Caloocan City (Proper) and Caloocan City (North), is urgently requested to better serve the judicial needs of its citizens and considerably reduce the large backlog of undisposed cases.

It may be worthwhile mentioning that a similar bill was filed in the House of Representatives during the 12th Congress and the same was passed, but was not acted upon by the Senate.

Hence, the attached bill which proposes to amend Batas Pambansa Bilang 129, as amended by Republic Act No. 7154, otherwise known as the Judiciary Reorganization of Act of 1981,

Along with the creation of the proposed RTC branches, this bill likewise seeks the appointment of RTC judges who will preside over the new RTC branches.

In view thereof, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


OSCAR O. MALAPITAN

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AN ACT

CREATING ADDITIONAL REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCHES FOR CALOOCAN CITY, WITH STATIONS AT CALOOCAN CITY (NORTH) AND CALOOCAN CITY (PROPER), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 OF BATAS PAMBANSA 129, AS AMENDED BY R.A. NO. 7154, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1981," AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

SECTION 1. Section 14, Paragraph (d) of Batas Pambansa Bilang 129, as amended by Republic Act No. 7154, otherwise known as the "Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1981," is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"(d) One hundred [seventy-six] EIGHTY Regional Trial Judges shall be commission for the National Capital Judicial Region. There shall be:

x x x

[Thirteen] SEVENTEEN branches for Caloocan City, with seats thereat:

x x x

SEC. 2. Of the four (4) additional Regional Trial Court branches, two (2) shall be situated at the Caloocan City (Proper) and two (2) at the Caloocan City (North).

SEC. 3. The Supreme Court shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act and if warranted the alignment of the seats of existing branches and their territorial jurisdiction.

SEC. 4. 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 four (4) additional regional trial court branches in the City of Caloocan, with two (2) stations at Caloocan City (Proper) and two (2) stations at Caloocan City (North), the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act,

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Approved,