

**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City**

**FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL NO. 4772

Introduced by HONORABLE FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 16 Article 3 of our Constitution expressly mandates that "all persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial and administrative bodies," unfortunately, this does not hold true in our country and in the City of Tacloban.

In Tacloban, the large number of pending undecided cases may be explained by the rapid population growth and increase in industrial and commercial activities in the city because of its conversion into a highly urbanized city on December 17, 2008. This development has drastically changed the socio-economic landscape of the city and effected an alarming upsurge in criminal and civil cases being filed in the existing branches of the Municipal Trial Courts in Cities (MTCC).

In addition to this, Republic Act 7691 expanded the jurisdiction of lower courts which has further clogged the court's docket.

For instance, the two (2) MTCC branches are handling 484 cases each at any given time or a total of 968 cases. Evidently, the sheer volume of cases cannot be properly handled by the existing trial courts, and this greatly hampers the delivery of judicial services.

Nevertheless, the creation of additional salas in Tacloban City will considerably reduce the backlog of unattended and undisposed cases.

Hence, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4772

Introduced by HONORABLE FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ

AN ACT
CREATING ADDITIONAL TWO (2) BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL
COURT IN CITIES (MTCC) IN THE CITY OF TACLOBAN, AMENDING FOR
THE PURPOSE SECTION 29 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF
1980, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Section 29 of Batas Pambansa Bilang 129, as amended, is
hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 29. *Municipal Trial Court in Cities.* – In every city which does
not form part of a metropolitan area, there shall be a Municipal Trial Court
with one branch, except as hereunder provided:

x x x

(Two) FOUR branches for Tacloban City;

x x x

SEC. 2. The Supreme Court shall assign two additional branches of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities (MTCC) in the City of Tacloban with seats thereat.

SEC. 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 two (2) additional branches of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities in the Province of Leyte, to be stationed in the City of Tacloban, the funding of which shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,