

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

15th CONGRESS

HOUSE BILL NO. 5558



Introduced by Representative Roman T. Romulo
Lone District of Pasig City

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This proposed bill seeks to establish 12 additional branches of the Metropolitan Trial Court (MeTC) at Pasig City hereby amending Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as "The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980".

Section 16, Article III of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that:

"All persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative bodies."

In the case of *Mendoza-Ong vs. Sandiganbayan* with G.R. Nos. 146368-69 on October 18, 2004, it was held that:

"The right to speedy disposition of cases, like the right to speedy trial, is violated only when the proceedings are attended by vexatious, capricious and oppressive delays. In the determination of whether said right has been violated, particular regard must be taken of the facts and circumstances peculiar to each case. The conduct of both the prosecution and the defendant, the length of the delay, the reasons for such delay, the assertion or failure to assert such right by the accused, and the prejudice caused by the delay are the factors to consider and balance. A mere mathematical reckoning of time involved would not be sufficient."

The lack of sufficient number courts, though not among the reasons that strips the public of their right to speedy disposition of cases, undeniably results to clogged court dockets and lengthy judicial processes. The number of courts should be proportionate with the population that it serves.

Based on the records of the National Statistics Office (NSO), Pasig City has a population of 268,565 in 1980 which boomed to 617,301 in 2007. On the other hand, the five (5) Metropolitan Trial Courts in Pasig City as per the Batas Pambansa Blg. 129 approved on August 14, 1981 remains the same. The limited number of courts that will handle and dispose of cases causes adverse effects in the delivery of justice for all.

The National Statistics and Coordination Board (NSCB) reported that MeTCs in the country has a court-case disposition rate of .82 in 2008 and .74 in 2009. This is the ratio of total cases in a year over total cases filed which means that a ratio of less than 1 indicates an increasing backlog, greater than 1 as decreasing backlog and equal to 1 indicates that the backlog is being maintained. The continued backlog in the disposition of cases is expected to worsen in the coming years and as reported by the NSO, the Philippine population is projected to grow from 76.5million in 2000, to 141.7 million in 2040.

Through the passage of this proposed Bill, the public shall have a strengthened judicial system which is able to efficiently and timely dispose cases.

For these reasons, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

HON. ROMAN T. ROMULO

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AN ACT
CREATING TWELVE ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE METROPOLITAN
TRIAL COURT IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION TO BE
STATIONED AT THE CITY OF PASIG, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE 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 House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

1 **SECTION 1.** Twelve (12) additional Metropolitan Trial Court branches for Pasig
2 City, with seats thereat, are hereby created in the National Capital Judicial Region.

3
4 **SECTION 2.** The Supreme Court shall assign the respective branch numbers for
5 the newly created branches.

6
7 **SECTION 3.** The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the
8 Secretary of the Department of Justice, shall immediately include in the Court's program
9 the implementation of this Act. The funding therefor shall likewise be included in the
10 annual General Appropriations Act.

11
12 **SECTION 4.** Section 27 of Batas Pambansa Bilang 129, otherwise known as
13 "The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980," as amended, as well as other provisions
14 that may be inconsistent herewith, is hereby deemed repealed, modified and or further
15 amended.

16
17 **SECTION 5. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after 18
18 completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or two (2) newspapers of general
19 circulation.

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21 *Approved,*
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