

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

House Bill No. 5837

Introduced by Representatives Enrique M. Cojuangco and Susan A. Yap

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 16, Article III of our Constitution gives each person the right to a speedy trial, it provides that: "All persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative bodies."

The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980 (BP 129) allotted the corresponding number of courts per judicial region based on the exigencies existing at that time. However, it has been 27 years since the effectivity of BP 129 and there has been a tremendous increase in our country's population since then. This resulted to the increase in the number of cases filed with our courts thus, clogging our court dockets and causing delay in the resolution of cases.

For many years now since the enactment of BP129, proposals to augment the number of judicial courts in the province of Tarlac have been done. However, to this day, no progress has been made and Tarlac remains to have the same original number of courts – six (6) Regional Trial Courts (RTC), four (4) City and Municipal Trial Courts and five (5) Municipal Circuit Trial Courts, the lowest in Luzon despite its huge population and booming economy.

Most cities in Luzon have much more RTCs – a) Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija has nine (9), b) San Fernando City, Pampanga has eight (8), c) Angeles City, Pampanga has seven (7), Urdaneta City, Pangasinan has five (5), and Legaspi City, Albay has ten (10).

In so far as Tarlac province is concerned, it is noteworthy to state that there is a greater number of cases filed than those disposed, resulting in the growing number of cases pending for the Courts in said province. The analysis of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines showed that such is mainly attributable to the lack of judicial courts in the province.

Given the net inflow of cases, the growing population and the undeniable economic growth of the province, the creation of additional courts has long been overdue.

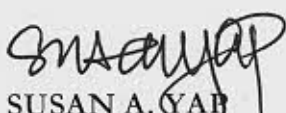
Under this proposed bill, fourteen (14) additional regional trial courts (RTCs) and seven (7) additional municipal trial courts (MTCs) will be created in the province of Tarlac to enhance the delivery of legal services for its constituents.

The bill aims to decrease the number of detainees awaiting trial in the provincial jail and reduce the dockets in the existing courts in the province.

The number of courts must necessarily be increased to be able to provide accessible and speedy determination of cases before the courts, thus ensuring the right to a speedy trial guaranteed by no less than our Constitution.

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


ENRIQUE M. COJUANGCO
Representative
1st District, Tarlac


SUSAN A. YAB
Representative
2nd District, Tarlac

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House Bill No. 5837

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AN ACT

CREATING FOURTEEN (14) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT AND SEVEN (7) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN THE THIRD JUDICIAL REGION TO BE SEATED IN THE DIFFERENT MUNICIPALITIES OF THE PROVINCE OF TARLAC, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (C) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 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

SECTION 1. Fourteen (14) additional Regional Trial Court branches and fifteen (15) additional Municipal Trial Court hereby created in the Third Judicial Region which will be seated in the various Municipalities of the Province of Tarlac. The additional Regional Trial Courts and the Municipal Trial Court shall be seated in the following municipalities:

A. REGIONAL TRIAL COURT

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| a. Tarlac City | 7 additional courts |
| b. Municipality of Paniqui | 3 additional courts |
| c. Municipality of Capas | 2 additional courts |
| d. Municipality of Camiling | 2 additional courts |

B. MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| a. Tarlac City | 2 additional courts |
| b. Victoria-La Paz | 1 additional court |
| c. Concepcion | 1 additional court |
| d. Sta. Ignacio-San Clemente | 1 additional court |
| e. Moncada | 1 additional court |
| f. Gerona | 1 additional court |

1 The Supreme Court shall assign the branch number of the newly-created branches of
2 the Regional Trial Court and Municipal Trial Court in the Third Judicial Region.

3 SEC. 2. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the Secretary
4 of the Department of Justice, shall immediately include in the Court's program, the
5 operationalization of the fourteen (14) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court and
6 the seven (7) additional Municipal Trial Court in Cities to be stationed at Tarlac City, the
7 funding of which shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

8 SEC. 3. Section 14 (c) of Batas Pambansa Bilang 129, otherwise known as "The
9 Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980" as amended, and all other laws, rules and
10 regulations which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified
11 accordingly.

12 SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in
13 the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

14 Approved,