

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

Third Regular Session

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2543

Submitted by the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations on
18 DEC 2012

Re: House Bill No. **6773**

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill Nos. 2306 and 5536

Sponsors: Representatives Niel C. Tupas, Jr., Jocelyn S. Limkaichong, Godofredo V. Arquiza, Monique Yazmin Q. Lagdameo, and Marlen Abigail S. Binay

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations, to which were referred House Bill No. 2306, introduced by Representative Godofredo V. Arquiza, entitled:

**"AN ACT
CREATING FIVE (5) ADDITIONAL METROPOLITAN TRIAL
COURTS IN THE CITY OF MAKATI"**

and House Bill No. 5536, introduced by Representatives Monique Yazmin Q. Lagdameo and Mar-len Abigail S. Binay, entitled:

**'AN ACT
CREATING SIX ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE
METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL
JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF MAKATI,
FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA
BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY**

**REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR'**

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill No.
6773, entitled

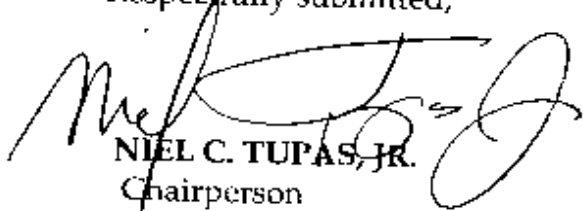
**"AN ACT
CREATING FIVE (5) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE
METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL
JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN MAKATI CITY, METRO
MANILA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 27 OF BATAS
PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
'JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"**

be approved in substitution of House Bill Nos. 2306 and 5536, with
Representatives Godofredo V. Arquiza, Monique Yazmin Q. Lagdameo, Mar-len
Abigail S. Binay, Niel C. Tupas, Jr., and Jocelyn S. Limkaichong, as authors
thereof.



JOCELYN S. LIMKAICHONG
Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations

Respectfully submitted,



NIEL C. TUPAS, JR.
Chairperson
Committee on Justice

The Honorable
The Speaker
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6773**

Introduced by Representatives Godofredo V. Arquiza, Monique Yazmin Q. Lagdameo, Mar-len Abigail S. Binay, Niel C. Tupas, Jr., and Jocelyn S Limkaichong

AN ACT

CREATING FIVE (5) ADDITIONAL METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT BRANCHES IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION, TO BE STATIONED IN MAKATI CITY, METRO MANILA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 27 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:

1 SECTION 1. Five (5) additional Metropolitan Trial Court branches
2 with seats at Makati City, Metro Manila, are hereby created in the National
3 Capital Judicial Region.

4 The Supreme Court shall assign the branch number of the newly-
5 created Metropolitan Trial Court branches in the National Capital Judicial
6 Region.

7 SEC. 2. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with
8 the Secretary of the Department of Justice, shall immediately include in the
9 Court's program the operationalization of the five (5) additional Metropolitan
10 Trial Court branches to be stationed in Makati City, Metro Manila, the
11 funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

1 SEC. 3. Section 27 of Batas Pambansa Bilang 129, otherwise known as
2 "The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980" as amended, and all other laws,
3 rules and regulations which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby
4 amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

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

8 Approved,

Fifteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2306

Introduced by Honorable Godofredo V. Arquiza

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to create Five (5) Additional Metropolitan Trial Courts in the City of Makati by increasing the number of Metropolitan Trial Courts from seven (7) to twelve (12), Amending for the purpose Batas Pambansa Elg. 129, otherwise known as the Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980, Appropriating Funds therefore and for other purposes.

Section 2, Article VIII of the 1987 Constitution states:

“The Congress shall have the power to define, prescribe and apportion the jurisdiction of the various courts but may not deprive the Supreme Court of its jurisdiction over cases enumerated in Section 5 hereof. xxx”

The Judicial Department is one of the principal organs of the ~~government whose main task is the administration and dispensation of~~ justice. No nation can ever attain political, social and economic progress, stability and peace unless it has a Judiciary that is truly independent, effective, efficient and worthy of public trust and confidence. Hence, the Judiciary plays an indispensable role in achieving these ends.

The Makati Metropolitan Trial Courts have only seven (7) branches, namely, Branch 61-67. In the City of Manila, there are thirty (30) branches and in Quezon City there are thirteen (13) branches.

The monthly report of the civil and criminal cases filed in the Metropolitan Trial Court of Makati for this year 2009 shows the following data:

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>CASES RAFFLED</u>
January 2009	404 ;
February 2009	802;
March 2009	631;
April 2009	366;
May 2009	613;
June 2009	755;
July 2009	732;
August 2009	683;
September 2009	501;
October 2009	699;

The above report was submitted by the Clerk of Makati who deemed it necessary to create additional court salas to expedite the dispensation of justice in Makati City considering that the courts have been clogged by numerous cases every month.

Whereas, the **Regional Trial Courts of Makati** comprise thirty (30) courts, (Branch 56 to Branch 66, and Branch 132 to 150), the **Metropolitan Trial Courts of Makati** only have seven (7) branches.

To date, each branch of the Metropolitan Trial Courts has the following number of cases:

MTC Branch:	PENDING CASES:
Branch 61	1,200 cases
Branch 62	917 cases
Branch 63	1,650 cases
Branch 64	1,020 cases
Branch 65	1,374 cases
Branch 66	1,550 cases

Branch 67 1,500 cases

With the number of existing cases pending and the influx of new cases filed, the existing seven (7) Metropolitan Trial courts could not dispense and dispose of the cases quickly, thus resulting in the clogging of dockets in the court.

Moreover, in view of the rise of the filing of criminal cases of violations of Batas Pambansa Blg. 22, which are covered by the Rule on Summary Procedure and fall under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Trial Courts (A.M. No. 00-11-01-SC dated March 25, 2003 by the Supreme Court), and considering the rapid population growth and increase of business establishments and commercial activities in Makati, there is an alarming upsurge in the civil and criminal cases being filed in the existing branches of the Metropolitan Trial Courts.

The Metropolitan Trial Courts of Makati can deliver effectively, efficiently, swiftly and perform better by the creation of additional courts. Makati City deserve an improved quality of life through fast and efficient administration of justice. There is a therefore need to create additional court salas of Metropolitan Trial Courts to expedite the dispensation of objective justice on the concerned litigants.

With the courts properly functioning, national stability in all its spheres and dimensions can be maintained and legal certainty and the rule of law are assured. This Judicial Reform will answer the need to improve the effective and efficient administration of justice which is indispensable for effective governance.

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


GODOFREDO V. ARQUIZA

Fifteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2306

Introduced by Honorable Godofredo V. Arquiza

AN ACT CREATING FIVE (5) ADDITIONAL
METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURTS
IN THE CITY OF MAKATI

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

Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as “*An Act Creating Five (5) Additional Metropolitan Trial Court Branches in the City of Makati, Amending for the Purpose Section 27 paragraph 10 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129 otherwise known as the Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980 as Amended and Appropriating Funds Therefore.*”

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – Section 2, Article VIII of the 1987 Constitution states:

“The Congress shall have the power to define, prescribe and apportion the jurisdiction of the various courts but may not deprive the Supreme Court of its jurisdiction over cases enumerated in Section 5 hereof. xxx”

Consonant with these constitutional principle, the following are the Declared Policies of this Act:

(a) to recognize the number of existing cases pending and the influx of new cases filed in the existing seven (7) Metropolitan Trial Courts in Makati City;

(b) to recognize that the seven (7) Metropolitan Trial Courts in Makati could not dispense and dispose of the cases quickly, which results to the clogging of dockets in the court; and

(c) To help reduce and ease the court dockets in the Metropolitan Trial Courts of Makati City;

In accordance with these policies, this Act aims to:

To create five (5) additional Metropolitan Trial Courts in Makati City.

Section 3. Amending Section 27 of BP 129 to read as follows:

"Section 27. Metropolitan Trial Courts of National Capital Region.
- There shall be a Metropolitan Trial Court in the National Capital Region, to be known as the Metropolitan Trial Court of Metro Manila, which shall be composed of (Ninety-Seven (97) **ONE-HUNDRED TWO (102)** branches. There shall be:

xxx

Twelve (12) branches (Branches LXI to LXXII) for Makati with seats thereat;

xxx"

Section 4. Duty of the Supreme Court - The Supreme Court shall assign five (5) additional branches of the Metropolitan Trial Court in the City of Makati in accordance with this act.

Section 5. Government Assistance - 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 operation of the additional five (5) Metropolitan Trial Courts in the City of Makati, the funding of which shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 6. 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 jurisdictions.

Section 7. **Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,



GODOFREDO V. ARQUIZA

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5536

Introduced by Hon. MONIQUE YAZMIN Q. LAGDAMEO and Hon. MAR-LEN ABIGAIL S. BINAY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

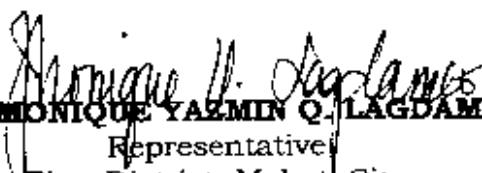
Our Constitution mandates that "all persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative bodies." Section 16, Article III, 1987 Constitution.

The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980 (B.P. 129) created, reorganized, and apportioned the corresponding number of courts per judicial region based on the exigencies at the time. Thirty years after the effectivity of B.P. 129, the population of the country has continued to balloon and the volume of cases filed has increased astronomically. Consequently, the court dockets have been clogged, resulting in delays in the resolution of cases.

In order to improve the disposition of cases and administration of justice, the number of courts must necessarily be increased.

In particular, from the data and recommendation of the Office of the Court Administrator, the combined caseload of the seven existing branches of the Metropolitan Trial Court (MeTC) in Makati City is around 8,053 with an average caseload of 1,150 per branch. The ideal caseload per MeTC branch being 500 - 600, the ideal number of MeTC branches for the city then is 13; thus, the proposal to create six additional branches.

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


HON. MONIQUE YAZMIN Q. LAGDAMEO
Representative
First District, Makati City


HON. MAR-LEN ABIGAIL S. BINAY
Representative
Second District, Makati City

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5536

Introduced by **Hon. MONIQUE YAZMIN Q. LAGDAMEO** and **Hon. MAR-LEN ABIGAIL S. BINAY**

AN ACT

CREATING SIX ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF MAKATI, 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:

SECTION 1. Six additional Metropolitan Trial Court branches for Makati City, with seats thereat, are hereby created in the National Capital Judicial Region.

SEC. 2. The Supreme Court shall assign the respective branch numbers for the newly created branches.

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

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

SEC. 5. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

November 20, 2012

HON. NIEL C. TUPAS, JR.
Chairperson
Committee on Justice

Dear *Chairperson Tupas*:

Please be informed that the Committee on Appropriations in its meeting held today at Conference Rooms 3 and 4, Ramon V. Mitra Building, approved to report out the following bills:

1. Substitute Bill to House Bill Nos. 182 and 183, titled "AN ACT CREATING FOUR (4) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT AND TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES FOR THE PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECJA TO BE STATIONED IN SAN JOSE CITY (2), THE SCIENCE CITY OF MUNOZ (2), AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF RIZAL, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SEC. 14, PARAGRAPH (C), SECTION 29, AND SECTION 30 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";
2. Substitute Bill to House Bill No. 750, titled "AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE PROVINCE OF BULACAN TO BE STATIONED IN SAN JOSE DEL MONTE CITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SEC. 14, PARAGRAPH (C) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG 129, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";
3. Substitute Bill to House Bill No. 899, titled "AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE PROVINCE OF CEBU TO BE STATIONED IN DANAOS CITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (H) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG 129, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";
4. Substitute Bill to House Bill Nos. 1422 and 1423, titled "AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE ISLAND GARDEN CITY OF SAMAL, AND A MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF STO. TOMAS, DAVAO DEL NORTE, AMENDING FOR THE

PURPOSE SEC. 14, PARAGRAPH (L) AND SECTION 30 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";

5. Substitute Bill to House Bill No. 1906, titled "AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TAGOLOAN, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SEC. 14, PARAGRAPH (K) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";
6. Substitute Bill to House Bill No. 4968, titled "AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCH IN THE THIRD JUDICIAL REGION, TO BE STATIONED AT THE CITY OF MEYCAUAYAN, PROVINCE OF BULACAN, 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";
7. House Bill No. 5341, titled "AN ACT CREATING THREE (3) ADDITIONAL REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCHES IN THE PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON TO BE STATIONED (2) AT THE CITY OF MALAYBALAY AND (1) AT THE CITY OF VALENCIA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION FOURTEEN (14), PARAGRAPH (K), OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";
8. House Bill No. 5335, titled "AN ACT CREATING TWO ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED AT THE CITY OF LUCENA, PROVINCE OF QUEZON FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";
9. Substitute Bill to House Bill No. 5583, titled "AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE EIGHT JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED AT THE CITY OF ORMOC, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 PARAGRAPH (J) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980' AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";
- ✓ 10. House Bill No. 5597, titled "AN ACT CREATING TWENTY-TWO (22) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION FOR QUEZON CITY, WITH SEATS THEREAT, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";
- ✓ 11. Substitute Bill to House Bill No. 5837, titled "AN ACT CREATING FOURTEEN (14) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT AND SEVEN (7) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT FOR THE PROVINCE OF TARLAC, TO BE STATIONED AT TARLAC CITY, AND AT THE MUNICIPALITIES OF PANQUI, CAPAS, CAMILING, VICTORIA-LA PAZ, CONCEPCION, STA. GERACIO-SAN CLEMENTE, MONCADA AND GERONA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (C) SECTION 29 AND SECTION 30 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY

REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980 AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";

12. Substitute Bill to House Bill No. 2306, titled "AN ACT CREATING 1 METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT BRANCHES IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION, TO BE STATIONED IN MAKATI CITY, METRO MANILA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 27 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980 AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";
13. Substitute Bill to House Bill No. 3372, titled "AN ACT CREATING TWO ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN THE EIGHT JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED AT THE CITY OF CALBAYOG, PROVINCE OF WESTERN SAMAR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 29 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980 AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";
14. Substitute Bill to House Bill No. 2958, titled "AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA TO BE STATIONED IN CAUAYAN CITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (B) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";
15. House Bill No. 4670, titled "AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED AT THE CITY OF GUIHULIGAN, PROVINCE OF NEGROS ORIENTAL, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (H), OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980 AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";
16. Substitute Bill to House Bill No. 4708, titled "AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCHES IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION, TO BE STATIONED IN PARAÑAQUE CITY, METRO MANILA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 PARAGRAPH (D) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980 AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";
17. Substitute Bill to House Bill No. 4719, titled "AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES (MTCC) IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEZON TO BE STATIONED AT LUCENA CITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 30 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";
18. Substitute Bill to House Bill No. 5566 titled "AN ACT CREATING FIVE (5) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT AND TWO ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION, TO BE STATIONED IN MALABON CITY, METRO MANILA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 (D) AND SECTION 27 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980 AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";
19. Substitute Bill to House Bill No. 5839, titled "AN ACT CREATING FIVE (5) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT AND FIVE (5) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION, TO BE STATIONED IN MAKATI CITY, METRO MANILA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 27 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980 AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";

JUDICIAL REGION, TO BE STATIONED IN PASAY CITY, METRO MANILA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 (D) AND SECTION 27 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR; and

20. Substitute Bill to House Bill No. 6418, titled "AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BONGABONG, AND FOUR (4) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF BANSUD, BULALACAO, GLORIA AND MANSALAY, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL MINDORO, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 (E) AND SECTION 30 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

with omnibus amendment to the proposed appropriations provisions as follows:

Delete the last sentence which reads as follows:

THE FUNDS NECESSARY FOR THE OPERATION OF THE COURT HEREIN CREATED SHALL BE APPROPRIATED AND RELEASED ONLY UPON THE ACTUAL ORGANIZATION OF THE COURT AND THE APPOINTMENT OF ITS PERSONNEL.

It was also moved that the title of House Bill No. 5837 be amended to reflect the correct name of the place from STA. IGNACIO – SAN CLEMENTE, MONCADA AND GERONA TO STA. IGNACIA – SAN CLEMENTE, MONCADA AND GERONA.

Very truly yours,


JOCELYN S. LIMKAICHONG

Chairperson

Committee on Appropriations

cc:

- Rep. Joseph Gilbert F. Violago
- Rep. Arturo B. Robes
- Rep. Ramon "Red" H. Durano VI
- Rep. Antonio F. Lagdameo, Jr.
- Rep. Yevgeny Vincent B. Emano
- Rep. Linabelle Ruth R. Villanica
- Rep. Florencio T. Flores, Jr.
- Rep. Irvin M. Alcala
- Rep. Lucy Marie Torres-Gomez
- Rep. Jorge "Bolet" Banal
- Rep. Enrique M. Cojuangco
- Rep. Susan A. Yap
- Rep. Godofredo V. Arquiza
- Rep. Mel Seren S. Samiento
- Rep. Napoleon S. Dy
- Rep. Edwin L. Olivarez
- Rep. Josephine Veronique R. Lacson-Noel
- Rep. Imelda Calixto-Rubiano
- Rep. Reynaldo V. Umali

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE HELD ON 04 SEPTEMBER 2012, TUESDAY, 9:30 A.M. AT CONFERENCE ROOMS 1 & 2, RVM BUILDING, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, QUEZON CITY

GUESTS:

1. ATTY. ANTONIO EUGENIO, JR. – Deputy Court Administrator, Supreme Court
2. ATTY. MANUEL CO – Officer-in-Charge (OIC), Bureau of Corrections
3. ATTY. PERSIDA ACOSTA – Chief, Public Attorney's Office (PAO)
4. P/SUPT-II RAMON REYES – OIC, New Bilibid Prison (NBP)
5. SUPT ANTONIO CRUZ –OIC, Administrative Division, Bureau of Corrections (BuCor)
6. DR. CYNTHIA ANDRADA – OIC, Reception and Diagnostic Center, BuCor
7. MR. ALFREDO DEVARAS – Chief, BuCor Reservation Support Services (BRSS)
8. MR. ROLLO ALARCON – Chief, Program Management Office (PMO), BuCor
9. MR. RAFAEL RAGOS – Deputy Director, National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)
10. MS. MARIA TERESA DE CASTRO – Sports and Recreation Office, BuCor
11. MR. MELITO GERONIMO, JR. – President, Bureau of Corrections Employees' Association (BUCOREA)
12. DR. RENANTE BASAS – Director IV, Commission on Human Rights (CHR)
13. ATTY. JESSICA GAMBOL SCHUCK – Atty. V, CHR

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Rep. Niel C. Tupas, Jr., Chairman of the Committee on Justice called the meeting to order at 9:52 a.m. The Chairman called on Atty. David Robert Amorin, Service Director of the Legal/Political Cluster to lead the prayer. Rep. Rodolfo Albano, Jr. then moved to dispense with the roll call. The motion was duly seconded and approved.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 14, 2012 MEETING

Rep. Albano moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to approve the same. Both motions were duly seconded and approved.

III. MEETING PROPER

A. CREATION OF ADDITIONAL COURT SALAS (House Bill Nos. 2306, 2958, 3372, 4265, 4670, 4708, 4719, 5531, 5558, 5566, 5839 and 6418)

The Chairman presented to the members of the Committee the various House Bills creating additional court salas. He stated that during a meeting of the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC), the members of the JBC agreed that with regard to the creation of new court salas, the Committee shall base its decisions on the recommendations of the Supreme Court. The Chairman then called on Deputy Court Administrator Antonio Eugenio, Jr. to comment on the said House Bills. DCA Eugenio questioned the creation of four (4) Regional Trial Courts (RTCs) in separate locations in Caloocan City as provided in HB 4265. He stated that the reason for the splitting of the 4 RTCs into separate locations (Caloocan City Proper and

Caloocan City North Station) must be clarified. DCA Eugenio also deferred his recommendations on HB 5531 and 5558 in order to conduct further studies on the need for the creation of additional court salas in Olongapo, Zambales and in Pasig City.

With regard to HB 5566, the Chairman manifested that the author of the bill, Rep. Josephine Lacson-Noel, has submitted an amendment to the bill such that there will be two (2) additional Metropolitan Trial Court (MeTC) branches instead of just one (1) in Malabon. DCA Eugenio expressed his agreement to the amendment and did not interpose any objection thereto.

Rep. Albano stated that there are some local government units (LGUs) where salas are provided, but which do not have judges or personnel. He recommended that the funds for newly created salas be released only upon the actual organization of such courts. DCA Eugenio agreed to raise this issue to the Court Administrator.

After the comments from DCA Eugenio, the Chairman deferred action on HB Nos. 4265, 5531 and 5558 pending the written recommendation to be submitted by the Office of the Court Administrator on September 7, 2012. Rep. Albano then made an omnibus motion to approve the remaining nine (9) bills, subject to form and style, and subject further that the funds appropriated to such court salas shall be released only upon the actual organization thereof. The motion was duly seconded and there being no objection, and the following bills were approved on the Committee level:

1. HB No. 2306 re: 5 MeTC (Makati City) by Rep. G. Arquiza;
2. HB No. 2958 re: 1 RTC (Cauayan, Isabela) by Rep. N. Dy;
3. HB No. 3372 re: 2 MTC (Calbayog) by Rep. Sarmiento;
4. HB No. 4670 re: 1 RTC (Guihulungan, Negros Oriental) by Rep. Linkaichong;
5. HB No. 4708 re: 2 RTC (Parañaque) by Rep. Olivarez;
6. HB No. 4719 re: 2 MTCC (Quezon) by Rep. Alcala;
7. HB No. 5839 re: 5 RTC and 5 MeTC (Pasay) by Rep. Calixto-Rubiano;
8. HB No. 6418 re: 4 MTC (Oriental Mindoro) by Rep. R. Umali; and,
9. HB No. 5566 re: 2 MeTC and 5 RTC (Malabon) by Rep. J. Noel

B. SUSPENSION OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

After the approval of the omnibus motion of Rep. Albano, the Chairman suspended the meeting of the Committee in order to give way to the joint meeting of the Committees on Justice and Government Reorganization. The meeting was suspended at 10:15 a.m.

C. CONTINUATION OF THE DELIBERATION ON THE BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2011 (House Bill Nos. 197, 712, 2880, 4619, 4766, 5546, 5741 and 5926, and House Resolution No. 1327)

The meeting of the Committee on Justice resumed at 10:45 a.m. upon the adjournment of the joint meeting of the Committees on Justice and Government Reorganization. The

Chairman informed the members that the Committee conducted three (3) public hearings with regard to the BuCor Modernization Act of 2011. These public hearings were held in the New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa City, the Correctional Institution for Women in Mandaluyong City, and the Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. The Chairman added that the next public hearing will be conducted either in the Saculayan Penal Colony in Oriental Mindoro or in the Davao Penal Colony in Davao del Sur.

After his preliminary remarks, the Chairman asked the resource persons about the status of the "kubols" found in the New Bilibid Prison (NBP). PSupt. Ramon Reyes answered that not all of the "kubols" were demolished but were instead restructured wherein each "kubol" now houses five (5) inmates. These "kubols" are also now uniform structures. PSupt. Reyes added that the "living-out" privileges were abolished in response to the recommendations of the members of the Committee during the public hearing held in the NBP.

The members of the Committee raised questions regarding the "kidnapping" incident involving Rolito Go last August. Deputy Director Rafael Ragos of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) answered that the NBI and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) of the Philippine National Police (PNP) are investigating the incident. However, Dep. Dir. Ragos stated that the NBI tends to believe the theory of kidnapping, based on the report submitted by the NBI to the DOJ. He also acknowledged the presence of a syndicate inside the NBP compound which is involved in these so-called kidnapping incidents.

Rep. Leopoldo Bataoil requested that the BuCor submit to the Committee a copy of the report of the DOJ regarding the review of the rules and regulations of the BuCor. BuCor Administrator Manuel Co agreed to the request of Rep. Bataoil.

Sought for comments on the proposed BuCor Modernization Bill, Dr. Renante Basas of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) expressed his support to the bill, adding that the modernization of the BuCor will help the Philippines meet the UN standards on the treatment of prisoners. He also stressed the importance of a human rights-based approach to prison management.

Asked by the Chairman whether there is a need to centralize the jails and penal facilities under the separate jurisdictions of the BuCor, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, and provincial jails, Administrator Co replied that a single jail system might be feasible, under a Department of Corrections. However, Public Attorney's Office (PAO) Chief Presida Acosta expressed her reservations to such a proposal, claiming that centralization might be difficult on the management of inmates and detainees. Instead, PAO Chief Acosta proposed that the only alternative is to strengthen the BuCor.

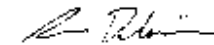
After the above discussions, the Chairman instructed the BuCor to submit to the Committee within one week a report on the various issues raised during the meeting, including 1.) the "kubol" system, 2.) living-out privileges, 3.) illegal drugs, 4.) prostitution, 5.) kidnapping, and 6.) guns-for-hire.

Rep. David Kho moved that a Technical Working Group (TWG) be created in order to consolidate all the bills on the modernization of the BuCor. The motion was duly seconded by Rep. Bataoil, and there being no objection thereto, the motion was carried.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Tupas adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m.

Prepared by:



RENE A. DELORINO

Supervising Legislative Staff Officer-I

Certified Correct by:

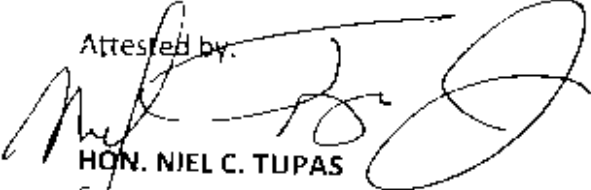


ATTY. MARCISA H. GUEVARRA

Committee Secretary

Committee on Justice

Attested by:



HON. NIEL C. TUPAS

Chairman

Committee on Justice