

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

Third Regular Session

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2547

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

Re: House Bill No. 677?

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3372

Sponsors: Representatives Niel C. Tupas, Jr., Jocelyn S. Limkaichong, and Mel Senen S. Sarmiento

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations, to which was referred House Bill No. 3372, introduced by Representative Mel Senen S. Sarmiento, entitled:

"AN ACT
ESTABLISHING TWO ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE
MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN THE CITY OF CALBAYOG,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 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.
677?, entitled

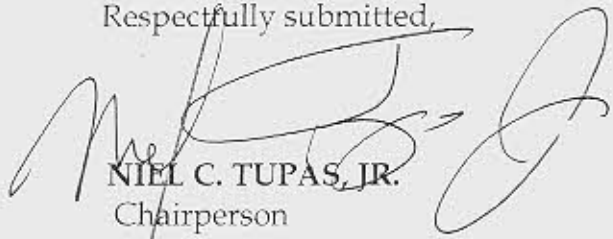
"AN ACT
CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE
MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES IN THE EIGHT JUDICIAL
REGION TO BE STATIONED AT THE CITY OF CALBAYOG,
PROVINCE OF WESTERN SAMAR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
SECTION 29 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980" AS
AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

be approved in substitution of House Bill No. 3372, with Representatives Mel Senen S. Sarmiento, 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. 6777

Introduced by Representatives Mel Senen S. Sarmiento, Niel C. Tupas, Jr., and
Jocelyn S. Limkaichong

AN ACT

CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES 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

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

1 SECTION 1. Two (2) additional branches of the Municipal Trial Courts
2 in Cities are hereby created in the Eight Judicial Region to be stationed at the
3 City of Calbayog, Province of Western Samar.

4 The Supreme Court shall assign the branch number of the newly-
5 created branches of the Municipal Trial Courts in Cities in the Eight 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 two additional branches of the
10 Municipal Trial Courts in Cities to be stationed at the City of Calbayog,

1 Province of Western Samar, the funding of which shall be included in the
2 annual General Appropriations Act.

3 SEC. 3. Section 29 of Batas Pambansa Bilang 129, otherwise known as
4 "*The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980*" as amended, and all other laws, rules
5 and regulations which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended,
6 repealed or modified accordingly.

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

10 Approved,

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3372

Introduced by: REP. MEL SENEN S. SARMIENTO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish two additional branches of Municipal Trial Court in the City of Calbayog in Samar amending for the purpose Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as the Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980.

The city is growing fast with a population now of more than 160,000. Corollary to the city's urbanization is the deluge of cases that has continued to pile up in the lone MTC branch in the city. The situation has been exacerbated by the retirement of the judge in 2010.

The passage of this bill is necessary to provide impetus to Section 16 of Article II (*Bill of Rights*) which declares that, "*all persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial or administrative bodies.*"

The courts should serve the best interest of the public and answer the growing demand for the immediate resolution of cases which presently clog the dockets and slow down the dispensation of justice in Calbayog City. Hence, the creation of two additional branches of MTC in the Eighth Judicial Region is of utmost importance for the people of Calbayog.

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


MEL SENEN S. SARMIENTO

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3372

Introduced by: REP. MEL SENEN S. SARMIENTO

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING TWO ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE
MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN THE CITY OF CALBAYOG,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE “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.** Section 29 of Batas Pambansa Bilang 129, as amended, is hereby
2 further amended adding to the list of those cities allowed to have more than one
3 branch of Municipal Trial Court to read as follows:

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

7 Two branches for Laoag City;

8 Four branches for Baguio City;

9 **THREE BRANCHES FOR CALBAYOG CITY;**

10 Three branches for Dagupan City;

11 xxx

1 **SECTION 2.** The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this
2 Act shall be charged to the appropriations for the Supreme Court. Thereafter,
3 such amount as may be necessary for the continuous implementation of this
4 Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

5

6 **SECTION 3.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
7 at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

8

9 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 ECIJA 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 DANA O 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 'JUCIARY 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 (I) 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 PANIQUI, CAPAS, CAMILING, VICTORIA-LA PAZ, CONCEPCION, STA. IGNACIO-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 AS AMENDED THEREFOR";

12. Substitute Bill to House Bill No. 2306, titled "AN ACT CREATING TWO 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";
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 GUIHULNGAN, 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 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";

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. Villarica
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 Senen S. Sarmiento
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 (Cauyan, Isabela) by Rep. N. Dy;
3. HB No. 3372 re: 2 MTC (Calbayog) by Rep. Sarmiento;
4. HB No. 4670 re: 1 RTC (Guihulngan, 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 Sablayan 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.

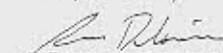
After the above discussions, the Chairman instructed the BuCor to submit to the Committee within one week a report on the various issues raised during the meeting, including 1.) the "kubol" system, 2.) living-out privileges, 3.) illegal drugs, 4.) prostitution, 5.) kidnapping, and 6.) guns-for-hire.

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