

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

16TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3116



Introduced by
HONORABLE IMELDA ROMUALDEZ-MARCOS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 16, Article III, Bill of Rights of the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines explicitly provides that all persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative bodies.

Republic Act no. 8493 is a means of enforcing the right of the accused to a speedy trial otherwise known as the Speedy Trial Act, which provides, among others, that the arraignment of an accused shall be held within thirty (30) days from filing of information, or from the date the accused has appeared before the justice, judge, or court in which the charge is pending whichever date last occurs. Thereafter, where a plea of not guilty is entered, the accused shall have at least fifteen (15) days to prepare for trial. Trial shall commence within thirty (30) days from arraignment as fixed by the court.

The influx of cases can no longer be contained by the two (2) existing Regional Trial Courts of Batac City which is already clogged with suits to the prejudice of litigants and law practitioners who are compelled to have their cases calendared and heard only after a long period of time. Thus, in the primordial interest of promoting the speedy dispensation of justice and human rights, Section 1, Article XIII, of the Constitution, mandates Congress to give highest priority to the enactment of measures designed to protect the different interests of the litigants which are,

- (1) to prevent oppressive pre-trial incarceration;
- (2) to minimize anxiety and concern of the accused and;
- (3) to limit the possibility that the defense will be impaired.

Through the passage of this bill to establish four (4) additional Regional Trial Courts at the City of Batac, province of Ilocos Norte, the reduction and rightful distribution of cases from the four (4) existing Regional Trial Courts will realize the intent and spirit of the law to give a prompt and inexpensive resolution of the cases referred to, and would indeed build and strengthen the trust and confidence of our people in the judiciary system, thus negating the notion that justice delayed is justice denied.

In this regard, the undersigned strongly pray for the approval of this bill.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Imelda R. Marcos', written in a cursive style.

HON. IMELDA R. MARCOS

Representative
2nd District, Ilocos Norte

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AN ACT CREATING FOUR (4) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED AT THE CITY OF BATAAC, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE, FURTHER 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:

Section 1. Four (4) additional Regional Trial Court branches for the City of Bataac, Ilocos Norte, with seats thereat, are hereby created in the First Judicial Region.

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

Section 3. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Justice, shall immediately include in the courts program the implementation of this act. The funding therefor shall likewise be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The funds necessary for the operation of the courts herein created shall be appropriated and released only upon the actual organization of the courts and the appointment of its personnel.

Section 4. Section 14 (1) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 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.

Section 5. This act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,