

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 4644

Introduced by Honorable Dale "Along" R. Malapitan

Explanatory Note

This bill seeks to create four (4) additional Regional Trial Court branches in Caloocan City, Metro Manila. The proposed measure aims to hasten the handling and disposition of cases in compliance with Section 16, Article III of the 1987 Constitution which provides for the speedy disposition of cases.

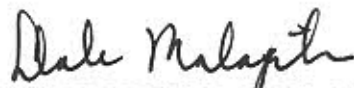
At present, there are thirteen Regional Trial Court branches in Caloocan City which already include a newly organized branch. These branches are experiencing severe backlog in the disposition of cases pending before them due to their sheer limited number and inadequacy of resources. This fact has led to the delay in the administration of justice.

Following information from the Office of the Court Administrator, that as of June 2016, a total of 5,762.9 cases or an average of 523 cases, are pending before the twelve branches alone. And, taking into consideration the fast-growing population of the city and the sudden increase of criminal cases in the light of the government's crackdown on illegal drugs, it becomes apparent that the number of RTC branches in this city is exceedingly deficient.

The creation of four additional branches will help in the unclogging as well as decreasing the number of caseloads of the existing RTC branches in Caloocan City. Four new branches will indubitably allow the attainment of the identified manageable caseload 300 cases as assessed by the Office of the Court Administrator.

It may be noteworthy to mention that a bill which provides for the same effect was filed during the 5th Congress. The same passed the approval of the House of Representatives on third reading and was transmitted to the Senate in February 2013. Unfortunately, the Upper Chamber failed to act on said proposed measure before the expiration of term.

Every citizen is given the right to speedy disposition of case. But, with the situation prevailing in Caloocan City, this vested right of litigants is practically being denied. Thus, the immediate consideration and approval of this bill is highly recommended.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Dale Malapitan".

HON. DALE "ALONG" R. MALAPITAN

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AN ACT

CREATING FOUR ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF CALOOCAN, METRO MANILA, 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 the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Four (4) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court are hereby created in the National Capital Judicial Region to be stationed in the City of Caloocan, Metro Manila, with seats at Caloocan City North.

SECTION 2. The Supreme Court shall assign the respective branch numbers for the newly created branches of the Regional Trial Court in the National Capital Judicial Region.

SECTION 3. 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 implementation of this Act. The funding therefor shall likewise be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 4. Section 14 (a) of Batas Pambansa Bilang 129, otherwise known as the "The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980," as amended, as well as other provisions that may be inconsistent herewith, are hereby deemed repealed, modified, and/or further amended.

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

Approved,