



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

Seventeenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6894**



**Introduced by Representatives Karlo Alexei B. Nograles and
Jericho Jonas B. Nograles**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Bill of Rights of the 1987 Constitution 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, or the Speedy Trial Act, was passed precisely to enforce this right, such right however, remains illusory due to the perennial clogging of court dockets in the country. While the Supreme Court has continuously adopted judicial reforms designed to facilitate the case flow, much still has to be done.

The recent inventory of cases conducted in Davao City shows that the combined case load for the existing fourteen (14) branches of the Regional Trial Court has an average case load of 1,154 per branch. Such staggering number of case dockets is way beyond the ideal ratio of 300-400 case load capacity for a branch. The influx of cases can no longer be contained by the fourteen existing RTC branches which are clearly overburdened.

Government must adopt measures to increase the number of courts in the country to improve the administration of justice and its speedy dispensation. This is in consonance with the constitutional provision which mandates that Congress must give highest priority to the enactment of measures designed to protect the different interests of the litigants, prevent oppressive pre-trial incarcerations, minimize the anxiety and concern of the accused, and limit the possibility that defense will be impaired.

While the City of Manila with a population of more than 1.7 million has seventy-five (75) RTC branches and Makati City with a population of 582,626 has fifty (50) RTC branches, Davao City with a population of more than 1.6 million people has only fourteen (14) RTC branches. It is therefore an immediate necessity to increase the number of RTC branches in Davao City in order to effectively remove the clogging of court dockets in the city.

The creation of additional three (3) RTC branches in Davao City is not only necessary by imperative.

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


KARLO ALEXEI B. NOGRALES


JERICHONAS B. NOGRALES



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

Seventeenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6894**

Introduced by Representatives Karlo Alexei B. Nograles and
Jericho Jonas B. Nograles

AN ACT

**CREATING THREE (3) ADDITIONAL REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
BRANCHES IN DAVAO CITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
SECTION 14 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980," AS
AMENDED AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

3
4 SECTION 1. Three (3) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court to
5 be stationed in Davao City are hereby created in the Eleventh Judicial Region.

6 SEC. 2. The Supreme Court shall assign the respective branch numbers
7 for the newly created branches in the Eleventh Judicial Region.

8 SEC. 3. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the
9 Secretary of Justice, shall immediately include in the courts program the
10 operationalization of the three (3) additional branches of the Regional Trial

1 Court in Davao City, the funding of which shall be included in the Annual
2 General Appropriations Act. The funds necessary for the operation of the
3 courts herein created shall be appropriated and released only upon the actual
4 organization of the courts and the appointment of its personnel.

5 SEC. 4. Section 14 (1) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as
6 "*The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980*" as amended, as well as other
7 provisions that may be inconsistent herewith, is hereby repealed, modified, or
8 further amended.

9 SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

10 Approved,