

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1597



Introduced by

HON. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ
HON. FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ
and
HON. JUDE A. ACIDRE

AN ACT

CREATING FOUR (4) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE PROVINCE OF LEYTE TO BE STATIONED AT THE CITY OF TACLOBAN, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks the creation of four (4) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court to be stationed in the City of Tacloban.

Article III, Section 16 of the Constitution of the Philippines guarantees, "All persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial and administrative bodies." At present, there are nine RTC branches in Tacloban. However, currently the average load per judge is more than 1,000 active cases, compared to the average caseload in other regions, which is only an average of 150 to 200 active cases per branch. Consequently, the court calendar of all RTC branches in Tacloban for 2018 is already full and in fact, cases are now being scheduled for 2019. With the steadily increasing number of cases filed with the Regional Trial Court (RTC) of Tacloban City, there is a need to create additional trial court branches in order to expedite the disposition of cases and improve the administration of justice, being one of the fundamental functions of the government and the hallmark of a truly democratic society.

The courts will serve the best interest of the public and respond to the growing demand for the immediate resolution of cases that presently clog the dockets, resulting in the undue delay in the dispensation of justice in the city of Tacloban and the seven municipalities that comprise the First District of Leyte. Hence the need to create additional trial court branches for the judicial requirements of the First District of Leyte has become imperative and is of outmost importance for the people of Leyte.

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



Rep. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ
Representative, Tingog Sinirangan



Rep. FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ
Representative, First District of Leyte



Rep. JUDE A. ACIDRE
Representative, Tingog Sinirangan

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

Section 1. Four (4) additional Regional Trial Court branches for Tacloban City, with seats thereat, are hereby created in the Eighth Judicial Region.

Section 2. The Supreme Court shall assign the branch number 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 Court’s program, the operationalization of the additional Regional Trial Court branches to be stationed in the City of Tacloban, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 4. Section 14(i) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as “Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980”, as amended, and all other laws, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,