

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2334



Introduced by **REP. JOSE FRANCISCO “KIKO” B. BENITEZ, Ph.D.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution guarantees that the right of all persons to speedy disposition of cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative bodies. (Sec. 16, Art. III)

However, the clogging of court dockets hampers the delivery of justice, contributing to the tragedy best expressed in the maxim, “Justice delayed is justice denied”.

As of July 2019, the caseload of Branch 40 of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) stationed in Silay City is 1,268. On one hand, the caseload of RTC Branch 69 in the same city is 881. These are thrice and four times the ideal number of cases per court which is 300-450 cases. To address this, it is imperative to establish a new RTC branch in the Third District of Negros Occidental to be stationed in Victorias City.

The number of cases from Victorias City alone, docketed in the two RTC branches in Silay City, is 660, demonstrating the necessity to create an RTC branch thereat.

A new RTC branch in Victorias City will prevent court congestion, improve the administration of justice in the Third District of Negros Occidental and strengthen the faith of our people in our justice system.

This bill has been approved on third and final reading by the House of Representatives in the 18th Congress.

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


JOSE FRANCISCO “KIKO” B. BENITEZ, Ph.D.

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HOUSE BILL NO. 2334

Introduced by **REP. JOSE FRANCISCO “KIKO” B. BENITEZ, Ph.D.**

AN ACT
CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN VICTORIAS CITY,
PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(G) OF BATAS
PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE JUDICIARY
REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980”, AS AMENDED,

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

SECTION 1. One (1) additional branch of the Regional Trial Court in the Sixth Judicial Region is hereby created and stationed in the City of Victorias, Province of Negros Occidental.

The Supreme Court shall assign the branch number of the newly created branch of the Regional Trial Court.

SEC. 2. The Regional Trial Court branch stationed at the City of Victorias shall have jurisdiction over the Municipality of Manapla.

SEC. 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 branch of the Regional Trial Court in the City of Victorias, Province of Negros Occidental. 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.

SEC. 4. Section 14 (g) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as "The 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.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,