

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 3532

Introduced by Honorable Oscar G. Malapitan

Explanatory Note

This bill seeks to create eight (8) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) in the National Capital Judicial Region to be stationed in the City of Caloocan. This piece of legislation was originally filed in the 15th Congress as well as during the 17th and 18th Congresses, and, in all occasions, was approved by the House of Representatives on third and final reading.

The proposed measure basically aims to hasten the handling and disposition of cases pending before the existing RTC branches in this city in consonance with Section 16, Article III of the 1987 Constitution which guarantees the right of every citizen for the speedy disposition of their cases.

At present, there are thirteen (13) existing Regional Trial Court branches and one (1) Family Court in Caloocan City. These courts are having severe backlog in the disposition of cases as attested to by the report submitted by the Office of the Court Administrator (OCA) which shows that the combined caseload of the thirteen (13) existing branches is 6,841 as of October 2019, or an average caseload of 526. And since the manageable caseload of a second level court is three hundred (300), it was therefore their recommendation that eight (8) additional RTC branches be created in Caloocan City to help reduce the court's docket to 342 cases.

Thus, given these data supplied by the Office of the Court Administrator and taking into consideration the annual increment in the number of cases before these courts, it becomes apparent that the number of RTC branches in Caloocan City is exceedingly deficient to the great detriment of the interest of the people.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate consideration and approval of this bill is highly recommended.

HON. OSCAR G. MALAPITAN

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AN ACT

CREATING EIGHT (8) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF CALOOCAN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 (D) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980,” AS AMENDED

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

SECTION 1. Eight (8) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court in the National Capital Judicial Region are hereby created and stationed in the City of Caloocan, with four (4) branches in Northern Caloocan and four (4) branches in Southern Caloocan.

The Supreme Court shall assign the respective branch numbers for the newly created branches of the Regional Trial Court.

SEC. 2. 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 eight (8) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court in the City of Caloocan. 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.

SEC. 3. Section 14 (d) of Batas Pambansa Bilang 129, otherwise known as the “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. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,