

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH (19TH) CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **10378**



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE RICARDO CRUZ JR.**

AN ACT
CREATING TEN (10) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT AND FIVE (5) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT, IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION, TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF TAGUIG, METRO MANILA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (D) AND SECTION 27 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980”, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The sufficiency in the number of courts is essential to address pressing issues and to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of our judicial process. Indeed, justice delayed is justice denied.

At present, the City of Taguig has eight (8) branches of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) and four (4) branches of the Metropolitan Trial Court (MeTC). Increasing the branches of trial courts in the City of Taguig is a logical and necessary step to address the challenges posed by the growing caseload, the significant increase in the population, and booming economic activity in the city.

Based on data from the Supreme Court - Office of the Court Administrator (OCA), there are 3,766 and 2,470 pending cases in the RTC and MeTC branches, respectively, stationed in the City of Taguig. There is thus an average caseload of 471 cases per RTC branch and 618 cases per MeTC branch, which are well and above the caseload of 300 cases per branch targeted by the OCA. The number of cases filed in courts in the City of Taguig is only bound to get significantly higher.

By virtue of the Supreme Court Decision in *Municipality of Makati vs. Municipality of Taguig*¹ which had become final on 30 January 2023, the Fort Bonifacio Military Reservation, consisting of parcels 3 and 4, Psu-2031, including ten (10) barangays, namely barangays

¹ G.R. No. 235316, 01 December 2021.

Pembo, Comembo, Cembo, South Cembo, West Rembo, East Rembo, Pitogo, Rizal, Proper Northside, and Proper Southside, were confirmed to be part of the territory of the City of Taguig by legal rights and historic title. Said Decision effectively transferred about three hundred thirty-six thousand eight hundred seventy-three (336,873) residents to the City of Taguig.²

Cognizant of the possible influx of cases in the trial courts of the City of Taguig as a result of the *Decision*, the Supreme Court designated eleven (11) additional courts to support the courts in the City of Taguig, pending the creation of additional courts through a law. The Court designated seven (7) Regional Trial Courts (RTCs) and four (4) Metropolitan Trial Courts (MeTCs) of Makati as assisting courts in the City of Taguig.³ This is but a temporary solution to the problem.

Without a proportional increase in the number of courts, as well as in court personnel and needed resources, the existing branches of trial courts stationed in the City of Taguig will become overburdened, leading to an increased backlog, a resulting slowdown in the resolution of cases, and, ultimately, a delay in the dispensation of justice.

This bill thus seeks to remedy the situation by creating five (5) additional branches of the MeTC and ten (10) additional branches of the RTC in the National Capital Judicial Region to be stationed in the City of Taguig.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of the measure is earnestly sought.


RICARDO CRUZ JR.

²<https://psa.gov.ph/content/2020-census-population-and-housing-2020-cph-population-counts-declared-official-president>

³ <https://sc.judiciary.gov.ph/sc-designates-additional-courts-to-assist-taguig-city-courts/>

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

SECTION 1. Ten (10) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court and Five (5) additional branches of the Metropolitan Trial Court, to be stationed in the City of Taguig, Metro Manila are hereby created in the National Capital Judicial Region.

SEC. 2. The Supreme Court shall assign the respective branch numbers of the newly created branches of the Regional Trial Court and the Metropolitan Trial Court in the National Capital Judicial Region stationed in the City of Taguig.

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 ten (10) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court and five (5) additional branches of the Metropolitan Trial Court to be stationed in the City of Taguig, Metro Manila, the funding of which shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act. 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. 4. Section 14 (d) and Section 27 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as “The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980”, as amended, and all other laws, executive orders, and 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 complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,