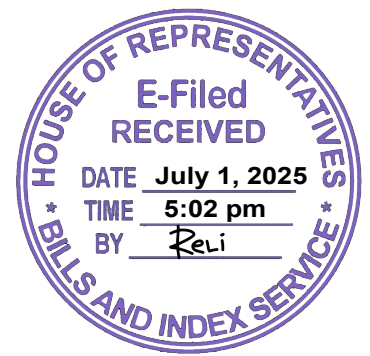


Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 966



Introduced by Honorable Oscar G. Malapitan

Explanatory Note

This bill seeks to establish 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 legislative proposal was first introduced in the 15th Congress and subsequently refiled in the 17th, 18th, and 19th Congresses. On each occasion, it was approved by the House of Representatives on third and final reading, reflecting consistent support for its enactment.

The primary objective of the measure is to expedite the hearing and resolution of cases pending before the existing RTC branches in Caloocan City. This is in line with Section 16, Article III of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, which guarantees every citizen the right to a speedy disposition of their cases.

Currently, Caloocan City is served by thirteen (13) RTC branches and one (1) Family Court. However, these courts face a severe backlog in case resolution. According to a report from the Office of the Court Administrator (OCA), the total caseload of these branches stands at 6,845 cases, or an average of 489 cases per branch. Given that the manageable caseload for a second-level court is only 300 cases, the creation of eight (8) additional RTC branches would significantly reduce the burden on existing courts, lowering the average caseload per branch to approximately 311 cases.

Caloocan City is a first-class, highly urbanized city with a population of 1,661,584 as per the 2020 census conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority. It ranks as the fourth most populous city in the Philippines and the third in Metro Manila, following Quezon City and Manila. As a major urban center and a thriving business district in the northern part of Metro Manila, the city continues to experience rapid growth in both population and economic activity.

In light of the overwhelming caseload of its RTC branches, the city's expanding population, and its dynamic economy, the immediate passage of this bill is strongly recommended.


HON. OSCAR G. MALAPITAN

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 966

Introduced by Honorable Oscar G. Malapitan

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 BLG. 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 North Caloocan and four (4) branches in South 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 additional branches of the Regional Trial Court in the City of Caloocan.

SEC. 3. The funds necessary for the implementation of this Act, including appropriations for personnel services such as salaries, benefits and emoluments for judges and court personnel, court operations under maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE) and the provisions for Halls of Justice or courtrooms to accommodate judges and court staff, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. Section 14 (d) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 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. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its

publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,