

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1861



Introduced by Honorable Faustino Michael Carlos T. Dy III

AN ACT

CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ROXAS, PROVINCE OF ISABELA, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(B) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980”, AS AMENDED.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 16 of Article III of the 1987 Philippine Constitution unequivocally states that - "All persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative bodies". Despite such constitutional protection, our nation's trial courts remain besieged by escalating backlogs and chronic delays due to the constant influx of new cases. Coupled with a steadily growing population, the judge-to-people ratio plummets, putting the quality and efficiency of justice at risk.

The backlog issue is particularly noticeable in the Regional Trial Courts. The Regional Trial Court (RTC), located in the Municipality of Roxas in the Province of Isabela, serves six (6) municipalities, including Roxas, Quezon, Mallig, Quirino, San Manuel, and Aurora. These municipalities collectively have a population exceeding three hundred thousand (300,000). Presently, the Regional Trial Court, Branch 23, Roxas, Isabela is a single sala court with three (3) Municipal Circuit Trial Courts (MCTC) and six (6) municipalities under its jurisdiction. In addition to being a general court, it is also designated as a Family Court, Drugs Court, Election Court and Green Court tasked to adjudicate environmental cases and is responsible for handling eight hundred fifty (850) criminal and civil cases with just one judge and a team of twelve (12) court employees. This situation clearly deviates from the ideal ratio of less than three hundred (300) cases per branch.

Considering these circumstances, including the current case load and the anticipated population growth, there is a pressing need to create two (2) additional court branches in the Regional Trial Court of Roxas, Isabela for the efficient dispensation of justice.

The establishment of two (2) additional court branches in the Regional Trial Court of Roxas, Isabela, might not completely eradicate the issue of case delays. However, this measure will certainly be a substantial stride towards alleviating case backlog and expediting the resolution of cases.

In recognition of our duty to honor and uphold our citizens' constitutional right to speedy and just resolution of their cases, I seek the immediate approval of this bill.



Rep. Faustino Michael Carlos T. Dy III
5th District, Isabela

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

SECTION 1. Two (2) additional Regional Trial Court in the Second Judicial Region are hereby created and stationed in the Municipality of Roxas, Province of Isabela.

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 two (2) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court in the Municipality of Roxas, Province of Isabela.

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

Approved,