

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **8083**



Introduced by **REP. LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA**

AN ACT
CREATING ADDITIONAL FOUR (4) BRANCHES OF REGIONAL TRIAL COURT (RTC) TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF MEYCAUAYAN, SITUATED IN THE THIRD JUDICIAL REGION IN THE PROVINCE OF BULACAN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (C) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Since the creation of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 121 stationed in the City of Meycauayan, in the Province of Bulacan, pursuant to Republic Act No. 10702, the court has been an important facet for the dispensation of justice in our judicial system in the City of Meycauayan and nearby municipalities. However, the current statistics of the pending cases of lone RTC in the City of Meycauayan are barely manageable at this point. As per records of the court, an average of 115 Criminal cases and 60 Civil cases are raffled to the court every month. While the Court aims to dispose as many cases as it could in a month to offset the influx of cases within the same period, it has become nearly impossible to manage both the old cases (which includes re-raffled or transferred) and the new ones. If this will not be addressed through the creation of additional branches of RTC, the right of every Filipino to a speedy administration of justice will be adversely curtailed.

It may be noted that the Supreme court has already reduced the number of municipalities under the jurisdiction of the court. From the original one (1) city and six (6) municipalities, it has been reduced to just one (1) city and three (3) municipalities to address the concerns on overloaded dockets. The court has also scheduled additional hearing dates and assigned additional prosecutors to augment the court calendar. But despite the efforts made to address the issue of overloaded cases, the problem persists especially with the recent designation of the court as a Family Court and Expropriation Court.

It is also highly inconceivable that the City of Meycauayan has only ONE (1) Regional Trial Court, this is despite its economic dynamism and consistent high performance in the

Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index (CMCI). It is noteworthy to take into consideration the demographics of the city that engage various activities in the city, and that the court also caters to those of the nearby municipalities of Marilao and Obando, and residual cases from Bustos, Baliuag, Bocaue and Pandi.

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



REP. LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA

Fourth District, Bulacan

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THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (C) OF BATAS
PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION
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Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

Section 1. There shall be created four (4) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court in, Province of Bulacan, to be stationed in the City of Meycauayan City.

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

Section 2. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the Secretary of the Justice, shall take the necessary steps to immediately operationalize the newly-created RTC branches, including the appointment of the judges, clerks of court, and other personnel to be assigned therein.

Section 3. The funds necessary for the implementation of this Act, including salaries and court operations under maintenance and other operating expense (MOOE), and provisions for Halls of Justice or courtrooms to accommodate four (4) judges and respective court staff, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA) and released upon the organization of such courts and appointment of personnel.

Section 4. Sections 14 (c) 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.

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

Approved,