

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

5539

House Bill No. _____

Introduced by Representative FLORIDA "RIDA" P. ROBES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution provides that "(a)ll persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative bodies" (Section 16, Article III). This is consistent with the legal maxim "justice delayed is justice denied."

In the City of San Jose Del Monte in the province of Bulacan, this legal maxim has become a norm. The speedy disposition of cases remains an elusive reality.

The City has a population of more than one (1) million. However, the city only has two Regional Trial Courts and three Metropolitan Circuit Trial Courts with a caseload of more than a thousand cases for each court. This is far from the ideal caseload of 300 to 450 cases per court.

Needless to say, the wheels of justice grind ever so slowly in the City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan because the courts are clogged with cases that even the most professional, brilliant and diligent legal brains cannot possible surmount.

The establishment of additional courts, including the special courts for particular cases, will therefore address the slow resolution of cases and will make not only justice more responsive to the needs of the people but easily accessible.

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


FLORIDA "RIDA" P. ROBES

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AN ACT

CREATING FIVE (5) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT (RTC), NAMELY: ONE (1) SPECIAL COURT FOR DRUG CASES, ONE (1) SPECIAL COURT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CASES, ONE (1) SPECIAL COMMERCIAL COURT AND TWO (2) REGULAR COURTS, TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, SITUATED IN THE PROVINCE OF BULACAN, IN THE THIRD JUDICIAL REGION, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

Section 1. Five (5) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court, namely one (1) Special Court for Drug Cases, one (1) Special Court for Environmental Cases, one (1) Special Commercial Court and two (2) Regular Courts, to be stationed in the City of San Jose del Monte, situated in the Province of Bulacan, are hereby created in the Third Judicial Region.

Section 2. The Supreme Court shall assign the branch number of the newly created Regional Trial Court branches in the Third Judicial Region.

Section 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 Regional Trial Court branches to be stationed in the City of San Jose del Monte, Province of Bulacan, the funding of which shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 4. Section 14(c) 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.

Section 5. This Act shall take effect fifteenth (15) days after its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.