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**Introduced by Honorable Dale "Along" R. Malapitan**

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**Explanatory Note**

This bill which was originally filed in the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress and approved by the House on third and final reading seeks to create four (4) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court in the National Capital Judicial Region to be stationed in Caloocan City, Metro Manila.

The proposed measure aims to hasten the handling and disposition of cases in compliance with Section 16, Article III of the 1987 Constitution which provides as a matter of right of every citizen for the speedy disposition of their cases.

At present, there are thirteen Regional Trial Court branches in Caloocan City. These courts are experiencing severe backlog in the disposition of cases pending before them due to their sheer limited number and inadequacy of resources. This fact has led to the delay in the administration of justice.

Based on the data supplied by the Office of the Court Administrator, that as of June 2016, there are a total of 5,762.9 cases or an average of 523 cases pending before the twelve RTC branches in Caloocan City alone, a far cry from the identified manageable caseload of three hundred (300) cases as assessed by the Office of the Court Administrator.

Thus, given this existing facts and the taking into consideration the fast-growing economy as well as population of the city, and coupled with the expected increase in the filing of criminal cases in the light of the government's crackdown on illegal drugs, it becomes apparent that the number of RTC branches in this city is exceedingly deficient.

The creation of four additional branches will help unclog or operate to decrease the number of caseloads of the existing RTC branches in Caloocan City, thereby assist in promoting the attainment of the identified manageable caseload 300 cases.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate consideration and approval of this bill is highly recommended.

  
**HON. DALE "ALONG" R. MALAPITAN**

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2884**

**Introduced by Rep. Dale "Along" R. Malapitan**

**AN ACT**  
**CREATING FOUR (4) 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 BILANG 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.** Four (4) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court to be stationed in the City of Caloocan, Metro Manila, are hereby created in the National Capital Judicial Region, with seats at Caloocan City North.

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 four (4) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court to be stationed in the City of Caloocan, Metro Manila, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SEC. 3.** Section 14 (d) of Batas Pambansa Bilang 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. 4.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*