NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )
*Second Regular Session* )

Senate
Office of the Secretary

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**COMMITTEE REPORT No.** 234

Submitted jointly by the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance on MAR 12 2024.

Re: House Bill No. 8255

Recommending the approval of House Bill No. 8255, with amendments.

Sponsor: Senator Francis "Tol" N. Tolentino

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**MR. PRESIDENT:**

The Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance, to which were referred **House Bill No. 8255**, introduced by Representatives Gasataya, Ferrer (J.M.), et al., entitled:

**"AN ACT**

**CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF BACOLOD, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 29 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED"**

have considered the same and have the honor to report it back to the Senate with the recommendation that House Bill No. 8255 be approved with the following amendments:

1) On page 2, line 11, Section 2, after the punctuation mark ".", insert a new sentence as follows:

**"THE SUPREME COURT SHALL ISSUE THE NECESSARY RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT AND, IF WARRANTED, THE REALIGNMENT OF SEATS OF EXISTING BRANCHES AND THEIR TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION.";**

2) On page 2, line 17, Section 3, between the words "staff," and "shall", insert the phrase:

**"AS WELL AS FUNDS NECESSARY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AUTOMATICALLY CREATED PROSECUTOR POSITIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10071 OR THE "PROSECUTION SERVICE ACT OF 2010" AND APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC ATTORNEYS PURSUANT TO SECTION 7 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9406 OR THE "ACT REORGANIZING AND STRENGTHENING THE PUBLIC ATTORNEY'S OFFICE (PAO)", RESULTING FROM THE CREATION OF THESE COURTS, INCLUDING APPROPRIATIONS FOR PERSONNEL SERVICES SUCH AS SALARIES, BENEFITS, AND EMOLUMENTS FOR PROSECUTORS AND PUBLIC ATTORNEYS.";**

3) On the same page, Section 3, after the phrase "General Appropriations Act.", insert a new paragraph to read as:

**"THE FUNDS NECESSARY FOR THE OPERATION OF THE COURTS HEREIN CREATED SHALL BE APPROPRIATED AND RELEASED ONLY UPON THE ACTUAL ORGANIZATION OF THE COURT AND THE APPOINTMENT OF ITS PERSONNEL.";**

4) Still on page 2, insert a new **Section 4** to read as:

**"SEC. 4. IN VIEW OF THE PROPOSED TWO (2) ADDITIONAL MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS IN CITIES (MTCC), THE MTCC IN THE CITY OF BACOLOD CITY WILL HAVE NINE (9) BRANCHES. THE STAFFING PATTERN OF EACH BRANCH SHALL BE AS FOLLOWS:**

| No. of Positions | Position Title | SG |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | City Trial Court Judge | 28 |
| 1 | Clerk of Court III | 22 |
| 1 | Court Legal Researcher I | 12 |
| 1 | Interpreter II | 10 |
| 3 | Court Stenographer II | 10 |
| 1 | Sheriff III | 10 |
| 1 | Clerk IV | 8 |
| 1 | Clerk III | 6 |
| 1 | Process Server | 5 |
| 1 | Utility Worker I | 1 |
| **12** | **Personnel** | |

**THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT (OCC) SHALL BE COMPOSED OF TWENTY-THREE (23) PERSONNEL, UNLESS MODIFIED AS DETERMINED BY THE SUPREME COURT.**

**IN ADDITION, THERE SHALL BE APPOINTED THE CORRESPONDING NUMBER OF PROSECUTOR/S AND PUBLIC ATTORNEY/S AND THEIR SUPPORT STAFF BASED ON THE RATIO OUTLINED IN REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10071 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9406, RESPECTIVELY.";**

5) To renumber the sections accordingly.

Respectfully submitted:

*Chairpersons*

**SEN. SONNY ANGARA**
Committee on Finance
*Vice Chairperson,* Committee on Justice and Human Rights

**SEN. FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO**
Committee on Justice and Human Rights
*Vice Chairperson,* Committee on Finance

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**SEN. PIA S. CAYETANO**
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**SEN. IMEE R. MARCOS**
*Senior Vice Chairperson,*
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**SEN. CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**
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**SEN. RISA HONTIVEROS**
Committee on Finance
*Member,* Committee on Justice and Human Rights

**SEN. MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY**
Committee on Finance

Respectfully submitted:

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*Senate President*

CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES
NINETEENTH CONGRESS
*Second Regular Session*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8255

BY REPRESENTATIVES GASATAYA, FERRER (J.M.), CO (E.), QUIMBO, ACIDRE, BARONDA, BOLILIA, PALMA, PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, PUMAREN, SUAREZ, HERRERA, ABANTE, ALONTE, ALVAREZ (M.), ALVAREZ (J.), ARENAS, BAUTISTA-LIM, BERNOS, BONGALON, CABREDO, CAMPOS, CARI, CELESTE, CO (A.N.), CUA, CUARESMA, DE VENECIA, DEL MAR, FUENTEBELLA, GO (E.C.), GONZAGA, HARESCO, LACSON, LARA, NAVA, SALIMBANGON, TIANGCO, UMALI, VARGAS-ALFONSO, VILLARAZA-SUAREZ, VIOLAGO, ZAMORA (M.C.), ZUBIRI, ABALOS, ADIONG, ADVINCULA, AMANTE, ANG, ASISTIO, ATAYDE, AUMENTADO, BASCUG, BOSITA, CHATTO, CO-PILAR, COJUANGCO (J.), CRUZ (A.), CRUZ (R.), DAGOOC, DIMAPORO (S.A.), EUDELA, FORTES, FRESNEDI, GARCIA (D.), GARCIA (M.A.), GARDIOLA, GO (M.), GUTIERREZ, HERNANDEZ, KHONGHUN, LAGON (D.), LAGON (S.), LAZATIN, MACEDA, MAGSINO, MANIQUIZ, MATIBAG, MERCADO, NOGRALES (M.), OUANO-DIZON, PADUANO, PANALIGAN, PANCHO, PLAZA, PLEYTO, REVILLA (R.J.), RODRIGUEZ (E.), SALI, TALLADO, TULFO (J.), UNABIA, VARGAS, VERGARA, VERZOSA, VILLAFUERTE (M.L.), YAP (C.), AGARAO, BENITEZ, BUHAIN, CORVERA, DALOG, DUTERTE, ECLEO, FLORES, GOMEZ, GUINTU, KHO (R.), MARIANO-HERNANDEZ, MARIÑO, MERCADO-REVILLA, ORDANES, ORTEGA, REVILLA (B.), ROMULO, SALCEDA, SAULOG, SILVERIO, SORIANO, TOLENTINO, VELOSO-TUAZON, VILLAFUERTE (L.R.) AND YAP (EDVIC), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 569

**AN ACT**

**CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF BACOLOD, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 29 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED**

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

**SECTION 1.** Two (2) additional branches of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities in the Sixth Judicial Region are hereby created and stationed in the City of Bacolod, Province of Negros Occidental.

The Supreme Court shall assign the respective branch numbers for the newly created branches of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities.

**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 Municipal Trial Court in Cities in the City of Bacolod, Province of Negros Occidental.

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

Approved,