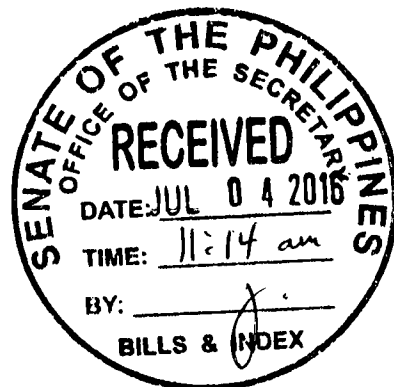


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

S E N A T E  
S. B. No. 300



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**Introduced by Senator Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III**

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**AN ACT  
CREATING TWO ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL  
TRIAL COURT WITH SEATS AT ORMOC, LEYTE IN THE  
EIGHTH JUDICIAL REGION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE  
SECTION 14 (I) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE  
KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980,  
AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The great civil rights advocate Martin Luther King, Jr., while incarcerated in Birmingham Jail decades ago, famously decried the phrase that never gets hackneyed “justice delayed is justice denied.” Sadly, Mr. King’s words, which were probably a critique on the administration of justice during his time, still very much resonate to this day with the plight of many Filipinos whose cases have long languished or are still languishing in our courts. While the members of our judiciary are some of the most brilliant luminaries in the legal community, the sheer volume of their caseload sometimes render it impossible for them to resolve these cases judiciously and with dispatch.

The Regional Trial Court in Ormoc City, Leyte, for which there are two (2) branches, has a total combined caseload of 1,637 as of February 2015. This translates to an almost similar average caseload of 819 per branch per year and again exceeds the manageable caseload of 300 for second level courts by almost 519 cases per branch.<sup>1</sup> Hence, the need to increase the courts therein by two.

With the passage of this bill, it is my hope that soon, no Filipino will be denied justice simply due to the delay in the disposition of their cases.

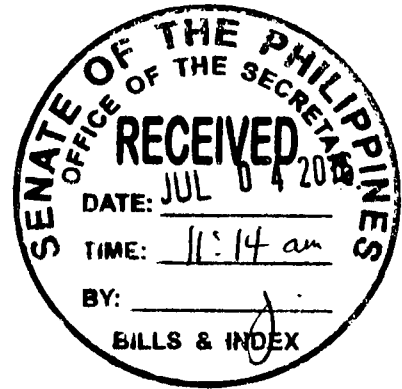
  
AQUILINO “KOKO” PIMENTEL III

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<sup>1</sup> Office of the Court Administrator, Supreme Court

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

1           SECTION 1. Two (2) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court  
2 with seats at Ormoc, Leyte in the Eighth Judicial Region are hereby created.

3           SEC. 2. The Supreme Court shall assign the branch numbers of the  
4 newly-created Regional Trial Court branches under this Act.

5           SEC. 3. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with  
6 the Secretary of the Department of Justice, shall immediately include in the  
7 Court’s program the operationalization of the newly-created Regional Trial  
8 Court branches under this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the  
9 Annual General Appropriations Act. Provided, that the funds necessary for  
10 their operation shall be appropriated and released only upon their actual  
11 organization and the appointment of their personnel.

1           SEC. 4. Section 14 (i) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as  
2 “The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980”, as amended, and all other laws,  
3 executive orders, and rules and regulations which are inconsistent with this  
4 Act are hereby amended, repealed, or modified accordingly.

5           SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after completion of  
6 its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*