


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

8 MAY - 6 2008

SENATE

RECEIVED BY 

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 47

Submitted by the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance on MAY - 6 2008

Re: Senate Bill No. 1976.

Recommending its approval without amendment.

Sponsors: Senators Escudero, Enrile and Villar.

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance to which was referred Senate Bill No. 1976, introduced by Senator Villar, entitled:


**"AN ACT
CREATING FIVE (5) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF METROPOLITAN TRIAL
COURTS IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"**

have considered the same and have the honor to report it back to the Senate with the recommendation that it be approved without amendment.

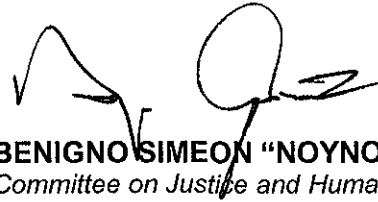
Respectfully Submitted:

Chairmen:


JUAN PONCE ENRILE
Committee on Finance
Member, Committee on Justice and Human Rights


FRANCIS "CHIZ" G. ESCUDERO
Committee on Justice and Human Rights
Member, Committee on Finance

Vice-Chairmen:



BENIGNO SIMEON "NOYNOY" AQUINO III
Committee on Justice and Human Rights



EDGARDO J. ANGARA
Committee on Finance

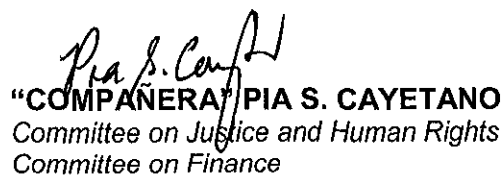


JOKER P. ARROYO
Committee on Finance

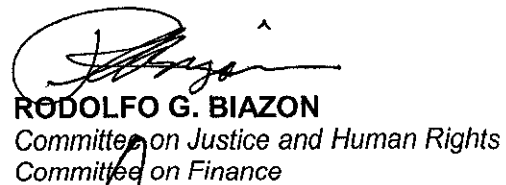


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
Committee on Finance

Members:



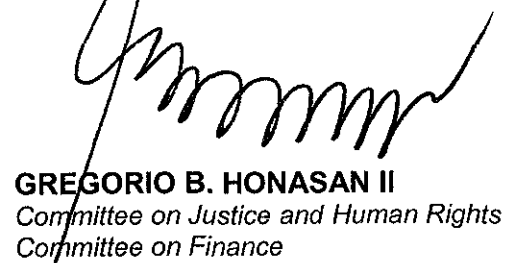
"COMPAÑERA" PIA S. CAYETANO
Committee on Justice and Human Rights
Committee on Finance



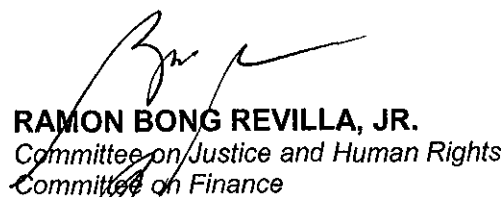
RODOLFO G. BIAZON
Committee on Justice and Human Rights
Committee on Finance



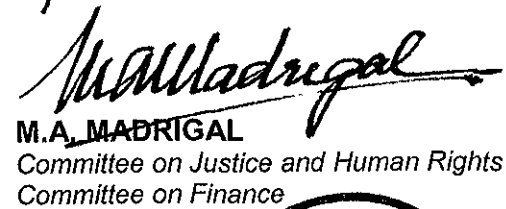
ALAN PÉTER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO
Committee on Justice and Human Rights



GREGORIO B. HONASAN II
Committee on Justice and Human Rights
Committee on Finance



RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.
Committee on Justice and Human Rights
Committee on Finance



M.A. MADRIGAL
Committee on Justice and Human Rights
Committee on Finance



RICHARD J. GORDON
Committee on Finance



MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Committee on Finance



JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI
Committee on Finance



PANFILO M. LACSON
Committee on Finance



LOREN B. LEGARDA
Committee on Finance



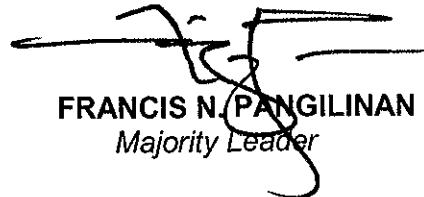
MAR ROXAS
Committee on Finance

ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Committee on Finance


Ex-Officio Members:



JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
President Pro-Tempore



FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN
Majority Leader




AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL JR.
Minority Leader

Hon. MANNY VILLAR
Senate President
Senate of the Philippines
Pasay City

7 DEC 18 2007

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. B. No. 1976

Introduced by Senator Villar

Explanatory Note

The need for the creation of additional branches of the Metropolitan Trial Court (MeTC) within the National Capital Region grows more evident with each passing year, particularly with the current population growth as well as with the expanded jurisdiction being vested on said courts.

While the Supreme Court considers the "ideal" case load of a single MeTC Branch at 600 to 700 cases for effective handling management and disposition, most MeTCs, especially the single-sala courts, have a case load of at least 300% more than the aforementioned "ideal" number.

In Las Pinas City, which only has one (1) MeTC as compared to ten (10) Regional Trial Courts (RTCs), the current case load of the single MeTC Branch therein, Branch 79, is approximately FIVE THOUSAND (5,000) cases. With the current trend of the City's population growth, which increased by 105,919 from the year 2000 up to 2007, or in a period of seven (7) years, and with the average number of case inflow of around 200 cases being filed with the MeTC monthly, the case load of MeTC Branch 79 will not be reduced substantially, if at all, and may even increase in the forthcoming years. This, despite the best efforts of Its presiding judge and staff.

Further, the limited resources (like office supplies and other equipment) and manpower allocated to said branch as a single-sala MeTC court, which resources and manpower have not increased all these years, are no longer sufficient to effectively handle the current case load of said branch.

Add to these the fact that the jurisdiction of the first-level courts like the MeTCs is regularly being expanded, with the enactment of criminal statutes and other special laws as well as city ordinances vesting jurisdiction upon the first-level courts over cases and disputes emanating therefrom, as well as with the expanded jurisdiction vested upon said first-level courts by R.A. 7691 and other pertinent rules of procedure.


All of these factors negatively affect the best efforts of MeTC Branch 79 to afford the constituents of Las Pinas City a speedy administration and delivery of justice.

To address the foregoing problem, this bill proposes the creation of FIVE (5) additional branches of the Metropolitan Trial Courts, with seats in Las Pinas City. With additional branches, the current case load of the single-sala MeTC in Las Pinas City of 5,000 cases will be divided and distributed to six (6) MeTC courts, resulting to approximately 840

cases per MeTC branch. This case load is already near the "ideal" case load number of 600 to 700 per MeTC as estimated by the Supreme Court.

Further, with the additional branches, the effort of affording the constituents of Las Pinas City easier access to, and speedier administration of, justice in the first-level courts will finally be realized.

The immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.



MANNY VILLAR

SENATE

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S. B. No. 1976

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**AN ACT
CREATING FIVE (5) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF METROPOLITAN TRIAL
COURTS IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 27 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129 is hereby amended to read as
2 follows:

3 **"SEC. 27. Metropolitan Trial courts of the National Capital Region-**
4 There shall be a Metropolitan Trial Court in the National Capital
5 Region, to be known as the Metropolitan Trial Court of Metro Manila,
6 which shall be composed of EIGHTY-SEVEN (87) branches. There shall
7 be:
8 xxx
9 SIX (6) branches (Branches LXXIX, and Branches LXXXIII to LXXXVII)
10 for the City of Las Pinas, with seats thereat;"

11 **SEC. 2.** The Supreme Court shall assign the additional five (5) branches of the
12 Metropolitan Trial Court as mentioned in Section 1 hereof specifically Branches LXXXIII to
13 LXXXVII, in the City of Las Pinas, with seats thereat.

14 **SEC. 3.** The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in coordination with the Secretary of
15 Justice shall, without delay, include in its program the immediate operationalization of the
16 five (5) additional Metropolitan Trial courts in the City of Las Pinas, the funding of which
17 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

18 **SEC. 4. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, presidential decrees, letters of instruction,
19 executive orders, rules and regulations, or any part thereof inconsistent with this Act shall be
20 amended or modified accordingly.

1 **SEC. 5. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
2 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
3 Approved,