

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
1<sup>st</sup> Regular Session

House Bill No. 3272



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**Introduced by Representative PAOLO Z. DUTERTE**

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#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Section 16, Article III of the 1987 Constitution states that “all persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative bodies.”

Among the pertinent problems faced by our country is the slow justice system due to clogged court dockets. Several attempts have been made to declog court dockets, the most significant of which is Republic Act No. 11576 or the “Judiciary Reorganization Act of 2021” which expanded the jurisdiction of first-level courts. The said piece of legislation will eventually declog second-level courts, particularly the Regional Trial Courts. In response to this judicial innovation, there is an immediate need to increase the number of first-level courts, namely: Metropolitan Trial Court (MeTC), Municipal Trial Courts in Cities (MTCC), Municipal Trial Courts (MTC), and the Municipal Circuit Trial Courts (MCTC).

To date, there are only seven (7) Municipal Trial Court in Cities (MTCC) branches in Davao City. But among these branches, only four (4) are being regularly raffled with cases since one branch is functioning as an Environmental Court, one branch is with a presiding judge functioning as Executive Judge with additional administrative duties and obligations, and one branch is temporarily held in abeyance as its caseload had reached 1,500.

Halfway through 2022, approximately 6,693 cases are designated to the existing branches, excluding two (2) branches which are on lockdown. The number of cases is expected to increase considering the expansion in the threshold amount of small cases to P1,000,000.00. Hence, this bill seeks to create three (3) additional branches of MTCC for Davao City in order to decrease the pending cases before the city's judicial bodies and to ensure the swift administration of justice for every case filed.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PAOLO Z. DUTERTE', written over the printed name below it.

**PAOLO Z. DUTERTE**

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**AN ACT**

**CREATING THREE (3) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED AT THE CITY OF DAVAO 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.** Three (3) additional branches of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities (MTCC) for the City of Davao, with seats thereat, are hereby created in the Eleventh Judicial Region.

**SEC. 2.** The Supreme Court shall assign the respective branch numbers for the newly created branches.

**SEC. 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 implementation of this Act. The funding therefor shall likewise be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The funds necessary shall be appropriated and released only upon the actual organization of the courts and the appointment of its personnel

**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 consistent 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,