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

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SENATE
S B. No. **1263**

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Persons in authority are charged with the maintenance of public order and the protection and security of life and property. But there are instances that the persons in authority themselves facilitated or ordered the destruction or concealment of vital evidence used in heinous crimes.

Hence, this bill seeks to prescribe a higher penalty for persons in authority who directly caused or ordered the destruction or concealment of vital evidence for heinous crimes.

This bill is a product of the public hearings conducted by the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws during the last Congress.


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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SENATE
S. B. No. 1263

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AN ACT
PRESCRIBING A HIGHER PENALTY FOR PERSONS IN AUTHORITY AS
ACCESSORIES, WHO DIRECTLY CAUSE OR ORDER THE DESTRUCTION OR
CONCEALMENT OF VITAL EVIDENCE FOR HEINOUS CRIMES, AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE THE PENAL CODE, ARTICLE 19

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

SECTION 1. Article 19 of the Penal Code is hereby amended by adding another paragraph:

“WHERE THE OFFENSE IS A HEINOUS CRIME UNDER EXISTING LAWS AND IS COMMITTED BY PERSONS IN AUTHORITY, THEY SHALL SUFFER THE PENALTY ONE DEGREE LOWER THAN THAT PRESCRIBED BY LAW FOR THE CONSUMMATED FELONY”.

SEC. 2. Separability Clause. - If any provision , or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 3. Repealing Clause. - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

Sec. 4. Effectivity Clause. - This shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.