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SENATE
S.B. No. 1085

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Introduced by **SENATOR JUAN MIGUEL "MIGZ" F. ZUBIRI**

**AN ACT
DECLARING FEBRUARY 10 OF EVERY YEAR AS THE "NATIONAL ANTI-HAZING
DAY" IN COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE VICTIMS OF HAZING IN THE
PHILIPPINES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

On 10 February 1991, Leonardo "Lenny" Villa hoped to emerge from his initiation rites as a new man, embraced by a brotherhood of likeminded individuals. Instead, he died of injuries incurred after being brutally hazed by members of the very fraternity he was seeking to join. Twenty-eight years later, on 18 September 2019, Darwin Dormitorio would suffer a similar fate, entering the Philippine Military Academy as an aspiring young cadet, only to meet his tragic death because of senseless hazing-related violence.

Lenny Villa and Darwin Dormitorio are but two of a long list of victims that have died of hazing in the Philippines. Since 1954, when Gonzalo Mariano Albert's hazing-related death pierced national consciousness, there have been at least forty-two reported hazing-related deaths in the country—most, if not all, being college-aged deaths, from seventeen years old to the early twenties.

It was Lenny Villa's tragic death in 1991 that finally incited mass outrage and led to the passing of the Anti-Hazing Law—which was amended in 2018, after another young man, Horacio Castillo III, lost his life to hazing-related violence at only twenty-two years old. A bright young man who had a future in law ahead of him, his life was cut mercilessly short because of the inhumane treatment he received at the hands of his peers. Republic Act 11053, enacted after Horacio Castillo's death, mandates an outright ban on hazing, in all of its forms.

This bill seeks to declare every tenth (10th) day of February as the National Anti-Hazing Day, in commemoration of all the young lives lost to the ruthless and meaningless violence of hazing. This day would remind the nation to mourn the lives we have lost to hazing, and take great pains to prevent the list from growing even one name longer.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this bill is requested.

JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI



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

SECTION 1. The tenth (10th) day of February of every year is hereby declared
as the "National Anti-Hazing Day," a special national working holiday in commemoration
of the victims of hazing.

In observance of the National Anti-Hazing Day, high schools, colleges, and universities,
including the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) and the Philippine National Police
Academy (PNP), are mandated to observe the day by conducting special programs, fora,
and other activities that inspire a culture of nonviolence, and inculcate a deep respect for
human rights, the dignity of human life, and on the provisions of RA 11053, otherwise
known as the Anti-Hazing Act of 2018.

SEC. 2. Lead Agency. Pursuant to the observance of the National Anti-Hazing
Day, the annual program of activities shall be prepared and implemented by the
concerned high schools, colleges and universities including the PMA and the PNPA and
shall be monitored by the Commission on Higher Education, Department of Education,
Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine National Police as the case may be.

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

Approved,