FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES First Regular Session

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SENATE

s. No. 2383

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Introduced by Senator JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The removal of the death penalty in our law books in 2006 was warmly welcomed by several sectors of our society, including other countries and international organizations. However, it was also greeted with jubilation by criminal syndicates and hardened criminals.

Recent events would prove the fear of the silent majority of our society to be true, that is, the repeal of the death penalty sets us back on our peace and order efforts and that it emboldens criminals to wantonly disregard the rule of law and the dignity of human life.

In May of 2008, the country has become witness to the gruesome and bloody killings of 10 officials and employees of the Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC) Branch in Cabuyao, Laguna. This dastardly act which was executed by the perpetrators of this heinous crime was done on May 16, 2008 in broad daylight and just before the bank opened for its customers. Others even described the killings as the "work of the devil."

A few days after this horrible incident, another indiscriminate killing of two families of farmers in Calamba, Laguna happened. The list goes on and on and the families of these innocent victims cry out for proportionate justice. But without the death penalty for these heinous crimes, justice would always become elusive for the families of these victims.

On November 23, 2009, a combined group of police and para-military aides of the Ampatuan political clan had massacred more than 50 unarmed civilians of which 30 were journalists. It is ironic that the witnesses felt more threatened and feared for their lives more than the suspects who hope to one day go free.

Meanwhile, the Philippines continues to be known as a transshipment point of illegal drugs as proven by the 1.9 tons of high-grade cocaine off-loaded by a foreign vessel along the coast of Samar in December 2009. Reports say the cocaine came from South America.

In an island barangay in Zamboanga City, five fishermen were shot and stabbed dead by pirates August 6, 2010. Reports said pirates frequently killed fishermen to steal the vessels' engines in the Sibugay area.

Likewise in Puerto Princesa City on August 9, 2010, assailants stabbed dead a retired Lieutenant Commodore of the Philippine Navy and four relatives including his wife, a Navy nurse in active duty.

The reimposition of the death penalty will make these criminal syndicates and hardened criminals think twice before they perpetrate their heinous crimes. It is in this light that this bill is being introduced. Unlike RA 7659, the law imposing the death penalty on certain heinous crimes which was repealed by RA 9346, the proposed measure seeks to reimpose the death penalty only for multiple murders and certain atrocious criminal acts under RA 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Hence, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES First Regular Session

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SENATE

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S. No. 2383

Introduced by Senator JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

AN ACT

REIMPOSING THE PENALTY OF DEATH ON CERTAIN HEINOUS CRIMES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE REVISED PENAL CODE, AS AMENDED, AND OTHER RELATED LAWS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

- 1 Section. 1. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to foster
- 2 and ensure not only obedience to its authority, but also to adopt such measures as
- 3 would effectively promote the maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life,
- 4 liberty and property, and the promotion of the general welfare which are essential for the
- 5 enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy in a just and humane society;
 - Sec. 2. Article 248 of the Revised Penal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

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"Art. 248. *Murder.* - Any person who, not falling within the provisions of Article 246 shall kill another, shall be guilty of murder and shall be punished by *reclusion perpetua*, TO DEATH if committed with any of the following attendant circumstances:

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"1. With treachery, taking advantage of superior strength, with the aid of armed men, or employing means to weaken the defense or of means or persons to insure or afford impunity.

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"2. In consideration of a price, reward or promise.

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"3. By means of inundation, fire, poison, explosion, shipwreck, stranding of a vessel, derailment or assault upon a railroad, fall of an airship, or by means of

motor vehicles, or with the use of any other means involving great waste and ruin.

"4. On occasion of any of the calamities enumerated in the preceding paragraph, or of an earthquake, eruption of a volcano, destructive cyclone, epidemic or other public calamity.

"5. With evident premeditation.

"6. With cruelty, by deliberately and inhumanly augmenting the suffering of the victim, or outraging or scoffing at his person or corpse."

Sec. 3. Sections 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 16, 19 and 27 of Article II of Republic Act No. 9165, as amended, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, are hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 4. *Importation of Dangerous Drugs and/or Controlled Precursors and Essential Chemicals.-* .The penalty of life imprisonment TO DEATH and a fine ranging from Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) to Ten million pesos (P10,000,000.00) shall be imposed upon any person, who, unless authorized by law, shall import or bring into the Philippines any dangerous drug, regardless of the quantity and purity involved, including any and all species of opium poppy or any part thereof or substances derived therefrom even for floral, decorative and culinary purposes.

The penalty of imprisonment ranging from twelve (12) years and one (1) day to twenty (20) years and a fine ranging from One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) to Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) shall be imposed upon any person, who, unless authorized by law, shall import any controlled precursor and essential chemical.

The maximum penalty provided for under this Section shall be imposed upon any person, who, unless authorized under this Act, shall import or bring into the Philippines any dangerous drug and/or controlled precursor and essential chemical through the use of a diplomatic passport, diplomatic facilities or any other means involving his/her official status intended to facilitate the unlawful entry of the same. In addition, the diplomatic passport shall be confiscated and canceled.

The maximum penalty provided for under this Section shall be imposed upon any person, who organizes, manages or acts as a "financier" of any of the illegal activities prescribed in this Section.

The penalty of twelve (12) years and one (1) day to twenty (20) years of imprisonment and a fine ranging from One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) to Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) shall be imposed upon any person, who acts as a "protector/coddler" of any violator of the provisions under this Section.

Section 5. Sale, Trading, Administration, Dispensation, Delivery, Distribution and Transportation of Dangerous Drugs and/or Controlled Precursors and Essential Chemicals. - The penalty of life imprisonment TO DEATH and a fine ranging from Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) to Ten million pesos (P10,000,000.00) shall be imposed upon any person, who, unless authorized by law, shall sell, trade, administer, dispense, deliver, give away to another, distribute dispatch in transit or transport any dangerous drug, including any and all species of opium poppy regardless of the quantity and purity involved, or shall act as a broker in any of such transactions.

The penalty of imprisonment ranging from twelve (12) years and one (1) day to twenty (20) years and a fine ranging from One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) to Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) shall be imposed upon any person, who, unless authorized by law, shall sell, trade, administer, dispense, deliver, give away to another, distribute, dispatch in transit or transport any controlled precursor and essential chemical, or shall act as a broker in such transactions.

If the sale, trading, administration, dispensation, delivery, distribution or transportation of any dangerous drug and/or controlled precursor and essential chemical transpires within one hundred (100) meters from the school, the maximum penalty shall be imposed in every case.

For drug pushers who use minors or mentally incapacitated individuals as runners, couriers and messengers, or in any other capacity directly connected to the dangerous drugs and/or controlled precursors and essential chemical trade, the maximum penalty shall be imposed in every case.

If the victim of the offense is a minor or a mentally incapacitated individual, or should a dangerous drug and/or a controlled precursor and essential chemical

involved in any offense herein provided be the proximate cause of death of a victim thereof, the maximum penalty provided for under this Section shall be imposed.

The maximum penalty provided for under this Section shall be imposed upon any person who organizes, manages or acts as a "financier" of any of the illegal activities prescribed in this Section.

The penalty of twelve (12) years and one (1) day to twenty (20) years of imprisonment and a fine ranging from One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) to Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) shall be imposed upon any person, who acts as a "protector/coddler" of any violator of the provisions under this Section.

Section 6. *Maintenance of a Den, Dive or Resort.* - The penalty of life imprisonment TO DEATH and a fine ranging from Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) to Ten million pesos (P10,000,000.00) shall be imposed upon any person or group of persons who shall maintain a den, dive or resort where any dangerous drug is used or sold in any form.

The penalty of imprisonment ranging from twelve (12) years and one (1) day to twenty (20) years and a fine ranging from One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) to Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) shall be imposed upon any person or group of persons who shall maintain a den, dive, or resort where any controlled precursor and essential chemical is used or sold in any form.

The maximum penalty provided for under this Section shall be imposed in every case where any dangerous drug is administered, delivered or sold to a minor who is allowed to use the same in such a place.

Should any dangerous drug be the proximate cause of the death of a person using the same in such den, dive or resort, the PENALTY OF DEATH and a fine ranging from One million (P1,000,000.00) to Fifteen million pesos (P500,000.00) shall be imposed on the maintainer, owner and/or operator.

If such den, dive or resort is owned by a third person, the same shall be confiscated and escheated in favor of the government: *Provided*, That the criminal complaint shall specifically allege that such place is intentionally used in the furtherance of the crime: *Provided*, *further*, That the prosecution shall prove

such intent on the part of the owner to use the property for such purpose: *Provided, finally*, That the owner shall be included as an accused in the criminal complaint.

The maximum penalty provided for under this Section shall be imposed upon any person who organizes, manages or acts as a "financier" of any of the illegal activities prescribed in this Section.

The penalty twelve (12) years and one (1) day to twenty (20) years of imprisonment and a fine ranging from One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) to Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) shall be imposed upon any person, who acts as a "protector/coddler" of any violator of the provisions under this Section.

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Section 8. Manufacture of Dangerous Drugs and/or Controlled Precursors and Essential Chemicals. - The penalty of life imprisonment TO DEATH and a fine ranging Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) to Ten million pesos (P10,000,000.00) shall be imposed upon any person, who, unless authorized by law, shall engage in the manufacture of any dangerous drug.

The penalty of imprisonment ranging from twelve (12) years and one (1) day to twenty (20) years and a fine ranging from One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) to Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) shall be imposed upon any person, who, unless authorized by law, shall manufacture any controlled precursor and essential chemical.

The presence of any controlled precursor and essential chemical or laboratory equipment in the clandestine laboratory is a *prima facie* proof of manufacture of any dangerous drug. It shall be considered an aggravating circumstance if the clandestine laboratory is undertaken or established under the following circumstances:

- (a) Any phase of the manufacturing process was conducted in the presence or with the help of minor/s:
- (b) Any phase or manufacturing process was established or undertaken within one hundred (100) meters of a residential, business, church or school premises;
- (c) Any clandestine laboratory was secured or protected with booby traps;

1 (d) Any clandestine laboratory was concealed with legitimate business 2 operations; or 3 (e) Any employment of a practitioner, chemical engineer, public official or foreigner. 4 5 The maximum penalty provided for under this Section shall be imposed 6 upon any person, who organizes, manages or acts as a "financier" of any of the illegal activities prescribed in this Section. 7 8 The penalty of twelve (12) years and one (1) day to twenty (20) years of 9 imprisonment and a fine ranging from One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) to Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) shall be imposed 10 upon any person, who acts as a "protector/coddler" of any violator of the 11 provisions under this Section. 12 13 "xxx" Section 11. Possession of Dangerous Drugs. - The penalty of life 14 15 imprisonment TO DEATH and a fine ranging from Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) to Ten million pesos (P10,000,000.00) shall be imposed upon any 16 17 person, who, unless authorized by law, shall possess any dangerous drug in the following quantities, regardless of the degree of purity thereof: 18 (1) 10 grams or more of opium; 19 20 (2) 10 grams or more of morphine; 21 (3) 10 grams or more of heroin; 22 (4) 10 grams or more of cocaine or cocaine hydrochloride; (5) 50 grams or more of methamphetamine hydrochloride or "shabu"; 23 (6) 10 grams or more of marijuana resin or marijuana resin oil; 24 (7) 500 grams or more of marijuana; and 25 (8) 10 grams or more of other dangerous drugs such as, but not limited to, 26 27 methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDA) or "ecstasy", 28 paramethoxyamphetamine (PMA), trimethoxyamphetamine (TMA), lysergic acid

diethylamine (LSD), gamma hydroxyamphetamine (GHB), and those similarly

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designed or newly introduced drugs and their derivatives, without having any therapeutic value or if the quantity possessed is far beyond therapeutic requirements, as determined and promulgated by the Board in accordance to Section 93, Article XI of this Act.

Otherwise, if the quantity involved is less than the foregoing quantities, the penalties shall be graduated as follows:

- (1) Life imprisonment and a fine ranging from Four hundred thousand pesos (P400,000.00) to Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00), if the quantity of methamphetamine hydrochloride or "shabu" is ten (10) grams or more but less than fifty (50) grams;
- (2) Imprisonment of twenty (20) years and one (1) day to life imprisonment and a fine ranging from Four hundred thousand pesos (P400,000.00) to Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00), if the quantities of dangerous drugs are five (5) grams or more but less than ten (10) grams of opium, morphine, heroin, cocaine hydrochloride, marijuana resin or marijuana methamphetamine hydrochloride or "shabu", or other dangerous drugs such as, but not limited to, MDMA or "ecstasy", PMA, TMA, LSD, GHB, and those similarly designed or newly introduced drugs and their derivatives, without having any therapeutic value or if the quantity possessed is far beyond therapeutic requirements; or three hundred (300) grams or more but less than five (hundred) 500) grams of marijuana; and
- (3) Imprisonment of twelve (12) years and one (1) day to twenty (20) years and a fine ranging from Three hundred thousand pesos (P300,000.00) to Four hundred thousand pesos (P400,000.00), if the quantities of dangerous drugs are less than five (5) grams of opium, morphine, heroin, cocaine or cocaine hydrochloride, marijuana resin or marijuana resin oil, methamphetamine hydrochloride or "shabu", or other dangerous drugs such as, but not limited to, MDMA or "ecstasy", PMA, TMA, LSD, GHB, and those similarly designed or newly introduced drugs and their derivatives, without having any therapeutic value or if the quantity possessed is far beyond therapeutic requirements; or less than three hundred (300) grams of marijuana.

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Section 16. Cultivation or Culture of Plants Classified as Dangerous Drugs or are Sources Thereof. - The penalty of life imprisonment TO DEATH and a fine

ranging from Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) to Ten million pesos (P10,000,000.00) shall be imposed upon any person, who shall plant, cultivate or culture marijuana, opium poppy or any other plant regardless of quantity, which is or may hereafter be classified as a dangerous drug or as a source from which any dangerous drug may be manufactured or derived: *Provided*, That in the case of medical laboratories and medical research centers which cultivate or culture marijuana, opium poppy and other plants, or materials of such dangerous drugs for medical experiments and research purposes, or for the creation of new types of medicine, the Board shall prescribe the necessary implementing guidelines for the proper cultivation, culture, handling, experimentation and disposal of such plants and materials.

The land or portions thereof and/or greenhouses on which any of said plants is cultivated or cultured shall be confiscated and escheated in favor of the State, unless the owner thereof can prove lack of knowledge of such cultivation or culture despite the exercise of due diligence on his/her part. If the land involved is part of the public domain, the maximum penalty provided for under this Section shall be imposed upon the offender.

The maximum penalty provided for under this Section shall be imposed upon any person, who organizes, manages or acts as a "financier" of any of the illegal activities prescribed in this Section.

The penalty of twelve (12) years and one (1) day to twenty (20) years of imprisonment and a fine ranging from One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) to Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) shall be imposed upon any person, who acts as a "protector/coddler" of any violator of the provisions under this Section.

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Section 19. *Unlawful Prescription of Dangerous Drugs*. The penalty of life imprisonment TO DEATH and a fine ranging from Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) to Ten million pesos (P10,000,000.00) shall be imposed upon any person, who, unless authorized by law, shall make or issue a prescription or any other writing purporting to be a prescription for any dangerous drug.

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Section 27. Criminal Liability of a Public Officer or Employee for Misappropriation, Misapplication or Failure to Account for the Confiscated. Seized and/or Surrendered Dangerous Drugs, Plant Sources of Dangerous Controlled Drugs, Precursors and Essential Instruments/Paraphernalia and/or Laboratory Equipment Including the Proceeds or Properties Obtained from the Unlawful Act Committed. The penalty of life imprisonment TO DEATH and a fine ranging from Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) to Ten million pesos (P10,000,000.00), in addition to absolute perpetual disqualification from any public office, shall be imposed upon any public officer or employee who misappropriates, misapplies or fails to account for confiscated, seized or surrendered dangerous drugs, plant sources of dangerous drugs, controlled precursors and essential chemicals, instruments/paraphernalia and/or laboratory equipment including the proceeds or properties obtained from the unlawful acts as provided for in this Act.

Any elective local or national official found to have benefited from the proceeds of the trafficking of dangerous drugs as prescribed in this Act, or have received any financial or material contributions or donations from natural or juridical persons found guilty of trafficking dangerous drugs as prescribed in this Act, shall be removed from office and perpetually disqualified from holding any elective or appointive positions in the government, its divisions, subdivisions, and intermediaries, including government-owned or controlled corporations.

Sec. 4. Article 47 of the same Code is hereby reinstated to read as follows:

ART. 47. IN WHAT CASES THE DEATH PENALTY SHALL NOT BE IMPOSED; AUTOMATIC REVIEW OF THE DEATH PENALTY CASES. - THE DEATH PENALTY SHALL BE IMPOSED IN ALL CASES IN WHICH IT MUST BE IMPOSED UNDER EXISTING LAWS, EXCEPT WHEN THE GUILTY PERSON IS BELOW EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS OF AGE AT THE TIME OF THE COMMISSION OF THE CRIME OR IS MORE THAN SEVENTY YEARS OF AGE OR WHEN UPON APPEAL OR AUTOMATIC REVIEW OF THE CASE BY THE SUPREME COURT, THE REQUIRED MAJORITY VOTE IS NOT OBTAINED FOR THE IMPOSITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY, IN WHICH CASES THE PENALTY SHALL BE RECLUSION PERPETUA; SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9344 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUVENILLE AND DELINQUENCY ACT OF 2006.

IN ALL CASES WHERE THE DEATH PENALTY IS IMPOSED BY THE TRIAL

COURT, THE RECORDS SHALL BE FORWARDED TO THE SUPREME COURT FOR AUTOMATIC REVIEW AND JUDGMENT BY THE COURT EN BANC, WITHIN TWENTY (20) DAYS BUT NOT EARLIER THAN FIFTEEN (15) DAYS AFTER PROMULGATION OF THE JUDGMENT OR NOTICE OF DENIAL OF ANY MOTION FOR NEW TRIAL OR RECONSIDERATION. THE TRANSCRIPT SHALL ALSO BE FORWARDED WITHIN TEN (10) DAYS FROM THE FILING THEREOF BY THE STENOGRAPHIC REPORTER.

Sec. 5. Article 81 of the same Code, as amended, is hereby reinstated to read as follows:

ART. 81. WHEN AND HOW THE DEATH PENALTY IS TO BE EXECUTED. THE DEATH SENTENCE SHALL BE EXECUTED WITH PREFERENCE TO
ANY OTHER AND SHALL CONSIST IN PUTTING THE PERSON UNDER
SENTENCE TO DEATH BY LETHAL INJECTION. THE DEATH SENTENCE
SHALL BE EXECUTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR OF
PRISONS, ENDEAVORING SO FAR AS POSSIBLE TO MITIGATE THE
SUFFERINGS OF THE PERSON UNDER THE SENTENCE DURING
ELECTROCUTION AS WELL AS DURING THE PROCEEDINGS PRIOR TO
THE EXECUTION.

IF THE PERSON UNDER SENTENCE SO DESIRES, HE SHALL BE ANAESTHESIZED AT THE MOMENT OF THE EXECUTION.

AS SOON AS FACILITIES ARE PROVIDED BY THE BUREAU OF PRISONS, THE METHOD OF CARRYING OUT THE SENTENCE SHALL BE CHANGED TO GAS POISONING.

THE DEATH SENTENCE SHALL BE CARRIED OUT NOT LATER THAN ONE (1) YEAR AFTER THE JUDGMENT HAS BECOME FINAL.

Sec. 6. Article 83 of the same Code is hereby reinstated to read as follows:

ART. 83. SUSPENSION OF THE EXECUTION OF THE DEATH SENTENCE. THE DEATH SENTENCE SHALL NOT BE INFLICTED UPON A WOMAN
WHILE SHE IS PREGNANT OR WITHIN ONE (1) YEAR AFTER DELIVERY,
NOR UPON ANY PERSON OVER SEVENTY YEARS OF AGE. IN THIS LAST
CASE, THE DEATH SENTENCE SHALL BE COMMUTED TO THE PENALTY

1	OF RECLUSION PERPETUA WITH THE ACCESSORY PENALTIES
2	PROVIDED IN ARTICLE 40.
3	"IN ALL CASES WHERE THE DEATH SENTENCE HAS BECOME FINAL,
4	THE RECORDS OF THE CASE SHALL BE FORWARDED IMMEDIATELY
5	BY THE SUPREME COURT TO THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT FOR
6	POSSIBLE EXERCISE OF THE PARDONING POWER.

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- **Sec. 7.** Repealing Clause. All laws, presidential decrees and issuances, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
- Sec. 8. Separability Clause. If, for any reason or reasons, any part of the provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.
- Sec. 9. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two
 (2) national newspapers of general circulation. The publication shall not be later than
 seven (7) days after the approval hereof.
- 17 Approved,