

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1922



Introduced by Representatives
DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO and GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

AN ACT
AMENDING ARTICLE 2206 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 386, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE CIVIL CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article 2206 of Republic Act No. 386, otherwise known as the Civil Code of the Philippines provides that:

"Article 2206. The amount of damages for death caused by a crime or quasi-delict shall be at least three thousand pesos, even though there may have been mitigating circumstances. x x x"

However, as early as the 1990s, particularly in the cases of *People v. Sazon*, G.R. No. 89684, *People v. Teehankee*, G.R. Nos. 11 1206-08 and *People v. Espanola*, 271 SCRA 689, the Supreme Court had already increased the indemnity for death to P50,000.00. Despite this jurisprudential guideline, the amount stated under the aforequoted provision was never amended to reflect the Supreme Court's prevailing pronouncement on this matter.

In order to finally harmonize the statute and jurisprudence, the present bill seeks to increase the amount of death indemnity to a minimum of P50,000.00, consistent with the Supreme Court's rulings.

In view of the significance of this bill, its immediate passage is earnestly sought.


DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO
Second District, Camarines Sur


GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
Second District, Pampanga

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

SECTION 1. Article 2206 of Republic Act No. 386, otherwise known as the Civil Code of the Philippines, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Art. 2206. The amount of damages for death caused by a crime or quasi-delict shall be at least [three thousand pesos] **FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00)**, even though there may have been mitigating circumstances. In addition:

- (1) The defendant shall be liable for the loss of the earning capacity of the deceased, and the indemnity shall be paid to the heirs of the latter; such indemnity shall in every case be assessed and awarded by the court, unless the deceased on account of permanent physical disability not caused by the defendant, had no earning capacity at the time of his death;
- (2) If the deceased was obliged to give support according to the provisions of Article 291, the recipient who is not an heir called to the decedent's inheritance by the law of testate or intestate succession, may demand support from the person

causing the death, for a period not exceeding five years, the exact duration to be fixed by the court;

- (3) The spouse, legitimate and illegitimate descendants and ascendants of the deceased may demand moral damages for mental anguish by reason of the death of the deceased."

SECTION 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.

SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees or issuances, executive orders, letters of instruction, administrative orders or rules and regulations, which may be inconsistent with this Act shall be deemed repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,