



**The Implementation of Republic Act No. 7659 (Death Penalty Law)
And its Effects on the Crime Rate in the
Municipality of Bacoor, Cavite
From 1994 to 2000**

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Requirements for the Degree
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ABSTRACT

NAME OF INSTITUTION: DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY – DASMARIÑAS

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TITLE: “The Implementation of Republic Act 7659 (Death Penalty Law) and its Effects on the Crime Rate in the Municipality of Bacoor, 1994 to 2000”

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OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

GENERAL:

The study aimed to determine whether the imposition of death penalty created an effect about the crime rate of Bacoor, Cavite.

SPECIFIC:

Specifically, it sought to answer the following questions:



1. What are the cases filed in Branch 89 of the Regional Trial Court in the Municipality of Bacoor, Cavite from 1994 to 2000 punishable by death penalty?
 - 1.1 What particular cases punishable by death penalty filed in Branch 89 of the Regional Trial Court in the Municipality of Bacoor, Cavite gained the highest and the lowest number of cases filed per year?
 - 1.2 From 1994 to 2000, which year showed the highest and lowest record of cases filed in Branch 89 of the Regional Trial Court in the Municipality of Bacoor, Cavite?
2. What are the statuses of the cases in Branch 89 of the Regional Trial Court in the Municipality of Bacoor, Cavite are punishable by death penalty from 1994 to 2000?
 - 2.1 What are the statuses of the cases filed in Branch 89 of the Regional Trial Court in the Municipality of Bacoor, Cavite from 1994 to 2000 were forwarded in the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court?
3. What is the state of criminality in the Municipality of Bacoor, Cavite from 1994 to 2000?

SCOPE AND DELIMITATIONS

The study focused on the effects of the imposition of the Death Penalty Law or Republic Act 7659 in the commission of heinous crimes in the Municipality of Bacoor, Cavite.



RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The method used in this research is descriptive analysis. It is a form of interpretation of information through the discovery of the nature and description of facts (Manuel, 1993). Through this method, the researchers were able to determine the breakdown of different available documents such as the crime statistics of the Municipality of Bacoor, the conditions of the cases filed in the Regional Trial Court of Bacoor and other related facts and data.

FINDINGS

After conducting a thorough research regarding the cases filed from 1994 to 2000 in Branch 89 of the Regional Trial Court, Municipality of Bacoor, Cavite and with the consideration of the crime rate gathered in the Bacoor Municipal Police Station, Bacoor, Cavite, the researchers arrived at the following findings:

1. That in Branch 89 of Regional Trial Court in the Municipality of Bacoor, Cavite, the cases filed therein that are punishable by death from 1994 to 2000 are the following: *robbery with violence and intimidation, rape, homicide, drug trafficking, murder, parricide, arson and qualified carnapping*. Among the heinous crimes covered by Republic Act 7659, e.g. *treason, piracy, qualified bribery, plunder and infanticide*, there were no cases filed in Branch 89 of the Regional Trial Court in the Municipality of Bacoor, Cavite.

The data gathered showed that drug trafficking earned the highest record of filed cases with 59.6 percent in Branch 89 of Regional Trial Court of Bacoor, Cavite, followed by rape (14.78 percent), murder (14.49 percent), homicide (5.76 percent),



robbery with violence and intimidation (4.32 percent), arson (0.67 percent), parricide and qualified carnapping (0.19 percent) respectively.

The highest number of cases filed was recorded in 2000, the lowest number of cases was filed in 1999.

On the other hand, in 1994 there were 83 cases filed. In the following year, 1995, the cases filed decreased to 47. However, in 1996 it increased to 112 and continued to rise to 181 cases in 1997. In 1998, the cases filed was reduced to 179 and continued to diminish to 31 cases in 1999. However, in 2000, it increased to 409 cases. It was the highest ever recorded within the scope of the study.

2. From the statistics gathered it exposed that there are 1,042 cases filed within 6 years and a total of 348 cases filed were pending before the Regional Trial Court, Municipality of Bacoor, Cavite. The dismissed cases have a total of 277, and 209 were decided cases. A total of 94 cases were acquitted, 44 were terminated, 24 were archived, 12 were provisionally dismissed, 9 were revived cases, 6 were revoked, and 3 were forwarded to Supreme Court. There was only one case filed for withdrawn, dropped and denied respectively.

From 1994 to 2000, three cases were forwarded to the Supreme Court. The decision for the cases of *People of the Philippines vs. Renato Desalisa y Payos et. al.* and *People of the Philippines vs. Antonio Abes y Yambot et. al.*, were affirmed with modification (the death penalty imposed was reduced to reclusion perpetua). However, in the case of *People of the Philippines vs. Ronald Dondiego*, the court resolved to transfer the case to the Court of Appeals.



3. Based on the crime rate from Bacoor Municipal Police Station and the cases filed on the Regional Trial Court, it showed that in 1999, the highest frequency of crime rate was recorded. The second highest was in 1997, with a total of 847 crimes, and in 1998 with 792 filed crimes. In 1996, there were 774 crimes recorded, and 738 crimes were filed in 2000. In 1994, 509 crimes were listed. The lowest number of crimes filed at 282 was recorded in 1995.

CONCLUSION

1. That in the Municipality of Bacoor, Cavite, the main objective of the implementation of Republic Act 7659 or the Death Penalty Law was not met.
2. That the main contributing factors that affect the ineffectiveness of the said law are the following: there was poor implementation of justice in Bacoor, Cavite. The data gathered showed that most of the cases filed in Branch 89 of the Regional Trial Court in the Municipality of Bacoor, Cavite were pending and the three cases forwarded to the Supreme Court were affirmed with modification (the death penalty imposed was reduced to reclusion perpetua). Republic Act 7659 became a mere dictum, which is influential but not binding. It failed to reach its main objective as a deterrent in the commission of crimes, which is evident with what the data showed. It must also be considered that deterrence depends on the speed of the process of justice and death certainly is a potential deterrence if the punishment could swiftly be brought into execution. But under our prevailing system of justice these are remote objectives.

Therefore, with all these contributing factors, the main objective of the implementation of Republic Act 7659 is defeated. Lagman (1996) noted that the government's re-adoption of the death penalty is an incongruity in the rehabilitative



thrust of the correctional modernization program that may set back our criminal justice system. In this light, government should review Republic Act 7659. Moreover, the death penalty has defeated its main purpose of deterring the commission of heinous crimes, more particularly rape. Lagman further stated that:

“I have always maintained that what ultimately deters potential offenders from committing crimes is not its severity of punishment, such as death by lethal injection, electrocution or by whatever means, but the certainty of apprehension, speedy and fair prosecution and eventual conviction if warranted.”

3. Republic Act 7659 failed to reach its main objective to serve as deterrence against the commission of heinous crimes. The records presented on Chapter 3, showed an inconsistency on the effects of Republic Act 7659 basing it on the crime rate of the Municipality of Bacoor, Cavite from 1994 to 2000. For reasons that if Republic Act 7659 is effective, the crime rate will gradually decrease and maintain its low rate.

As to the factors affecting the efficiency of Republic Act 7659, the poor implementation on the part of the government which is evident due to the Moratorium issued by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in 2000. Because from 1994 to 2000, only one was executed in the person of Leo Echegaray on February 5, 1999 through lethal injection. Barbers (2002), reiterated that humans are afraid to place themselves in mortal danger; the death penalty is obviously mortal danger and a strong deterrent against criminality. On the contrary, he pointed out that the wishy-washy attitude of the government in enforcing the death penalty law emboldens criminal to commit heinous crimes.