

ABOLITION OF MANDATORY DEATH PENALTY BILL 2023

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A BILL

i n t i t u l e d

An Act to amend the Penal Code, the Firearms (Increased Penalties) Act 1971, the Arms Act 1960, the Kidnapping Act 1961, the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952, the Strategic Trade Act 2010 and the Criminal Procedure Code in order to abolish the mandatory death penalty, to vary the sentence relating to imprisonment for natural life and whipping, and to provide for matters connected therewith.

[]

ENACTED by the Parliament of Malaysia as follows:

PART I

PRELIMINARY

Short title and commencement

1. (1) This Act may be cited as the Abolition of Mandatory Death Penalty Act 2023.

(2) This Act comes into operation on a date to be appointed by the Minister by notification in the *Gazette*.

Amendment of Acts

2. The Penal Code [*Act 574*], the Firearms (Increased Penalties) Act 1971 [*Act 37*], the Arms Act 1960 [*Act 206*], the Kidnapping Act 1961 [*Act 365*], the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 [*Act 234*], the Strategic Trade Act 2010 [*Act 708*] and the Criminal Procedure Code [*Act 593*] are amended in the manner specified in Parts II, III, IV, V, VI, VII and VIII respectively.

PART II**AMENDMENTS TO THE PENAL CODE****Amendment of section 115**

3. The Penal Code, which is referred to as the “Code” in this Part, is amended in section 115 by inserting after the words “which may extend to twenty years” the words “or upwards”.

Amendment of section 118

4. Section 118 of the Code is amended by inserting after the words “which may extend to twenty years” the words “or upwards”.

Amendment of section 119

5. Section 119 of the Code is amended by inserting after the words “which may extend to twenty years” the words “or upwards”.

Amendment of section 121

6. Section 121 of the Code is amended by substituting for the words “imprisonment for life” the words “imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years”.

Amendment of section 121A

7. Section 121A of the Code is amended by substituting for the words “with death and shall also be liable to fine” the words “with death or imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years and if not sentenced to death, shall also be punished with whipping of not less than twelve strokes”.

Amendment of section 121B

8. Section 121B of the Code is amended by substituting for the words “imprisonment for life” the words “imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years”.

Amendment of section 122

9. Section 122 of the Code is amended by substituting for the words “imprisonment for life or imprisonment for a term not exceeding twenty years” the words “imprisonment for a term not exceeding forty years”.

Amendment of section 124K

10. Section 124K of the Code is amended by substituting for the words “imprisonment for life” the words “imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years”.

Amendment of section 124M

11. Section 124M of the Code is amended by substituting for the words “imprisonment for life” the words “imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years”.

Amendment of section 125

12. Section 125 of the Code is amended by substituting for the words “imprisonment for life, to which fine may be added; or with imprisonment for a term which may extend to twenty years” the words “imprisonment for a term not exceeding forty years”.

Amendment of section 125A

13. Section 125A of the Code is amended by substituting for the words “imprisonment for life, to which fine may be added; or with imprisonment for a term which may extend to twenty years” the words “imprisonment for a term not exceeding forty years”.

Amendment of section 128

14. Section 128 of the Code is amended by substituting for the words “imprisonment for life, or imprisonment for a term which may extend to twenty years” the words “imprisonment for a term not exceeding forty years”.

Amendment of section 130

15. Section 130 of the Code is amended by substituting for the words “imprisonment for life, or imprisonment for a term which may extend to twenty years” the words “imprisonment for a term not exceeding forty years”.

Amendment of section 130A

16. Section 130A of the Code is amended by deleting paragraph (f).

Amendment of section 130B

17. Subsection 130B(1) of the Code is amended by deleting the definition of “imprisonment for life”.

Amendment of section 130c

18. Paragraph 130c(1)(a) of the Code is amended by inserting after the words “with death” the words “or imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years and if not sentenced to death, shall also be punished with whipping of not less than twelve strokes”.

Amendment of section 130D

19. Section 130D of the Code is amended by substituting for the words “imprisonment for life or imprisonment for a term not exceeding thirty years” the words “imprisonment for a term not exceeding forty years”.

Amendment of section 130I

20. Paragraph 130I(a) of the Code is amended by inserting after the words “with death” the words “or imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years, and if not sentenced to death, shall also be punished with whipping of not less than twelve strokes”.

Amendment of section 130J

21. Subsection 130J(1) of the Code is amended by substituting for the words “imprisonment for life or imprisonment for a term not exceeding thirty years” the words “imprisonment for a term not exceeding forty years”.

Amendment of section 130K

22. Section 130K of the Code is amended by substituting for the words “imprisonment for life, and shall also be liable to fine; or with imprisonment for a term which may extend to twenty years” the words “imprisonment for a term not exceeding forty years, and shall also be liable to fine”.

Amendment of section 130KA

23. Section 130KA of the Code is amended by substituting for the words “imprisonment for life” the words “forty years”.

Amendment of section 130N

24. Paragraph 130N(a) of the Code is amended by inserting after the words “with death” the words “or imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years and if not sentenced to death, shall also be punished with whipping of not less than twelve strokes”.

Amendment of section 130o

25. Paragraph 130o(1)(aa) of the Code is amended by inserting after the words “with death” the words “or imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years and if not sentenced to death, shall also be punished with whipping of not less than twelve strokes”.

Amendment of section 130QA

26. Paragraph 130QA(a) of the Code is amended by inserting after the words “with death” the words “or imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years and if not sentenced to death, shall also be punished with whipping of not less than twelve strokes”.

Amendment of section 130ZB

27. Paragraph 130ZB(a) of the Code is amended by inserting after the words “with death” the words “or imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years and if not sentenced to death, shall also be punished with whipping of not less than twelve strokes”.

Amendment of section 201

28. Section 201 of the Code is amended by inserting after the words “imprisonment which may extend to ten years” the words “or upwards”.

Amendment of section 212

29. Subsection 212(1) of the Code is amended by inserting after the words “imprisonment which may extend to ten years” the words “or upwards”.

Amendment of section 213

30. Section 213 of the Code is amended by inserting after the words “imprisonment which may extend to ten years” the words “or upwards”.

Amendment of section 214

31. Section 214 of the Code is amended by inserting after the words “imprisonment which may extend to ten years” the words “or upwards”.

Amendment of section 216

32. Subsection 216(1) of the Code is amended by inserting after the words “imprisonment for ten years” the words “or upwards”.

Amendment of section 221

33. Paragraph 221(*b*) of the Code is amended by inserting after the words “imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years” the words “or upwards”.

Amendment of section 302

34. Section 302 of the Code is amended by inserting after the words “with death” the words “or imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years and if not sentenced to death, shall also be punished with whipping of not less than twelve strokes”.

Amendment of section 307

35. Section 307 of the Code is amended by deleting subsection (2).

Amendment of section 364

36. Section 364 of the Code is amended by substituting for the words “death or imprisonment for a term which may extend to thirty years and shall, if he is not sentenced to death, also be liable to whipping” the words “imprisonment for a term of not more than thirty years and shall also be punished with whipping”.

Amendment of section 374A

37. Paragraph 374A(a) of the Code is amended by inserting after the words “with death” the words “or imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years and if not sentenced to death, shall also be punished with whipping of not less than twelve strokes”.

Amendment of section 450

38. Section 450 of the Code is amended by inserting after the words “imprisonment for a term which may extend to twenty years” the words “or upwards”.

Transitional

39. Upon the coming into operation of this Act, if a person is convicted by any court for the commission of an offence under section 121, 121A, 302 or 364 or paragraph 130C(1)(a), 130I(a), 130N(a), 130O(1)(aa), 130QA(a), 130ZB(a) or 374A(a) of the Code, the person, whether at a trial or on an appeal, shall be sentenced in accordance with the provisions of the Code as amended by this Act even though the offence was committed before the date of coming into operation of this Act.

PART III**AMENDMENTS TO THE FIREARMS
(INCREASED PENALTIES) ACT 1971****Amendment of section 2**

40. The Firearms (Increased Penalties) Act 1971, which is referred to as the “principal Act” in this Part, is amended in subsection 2(1) by deleting the definition of “imprisonment for life”.

Amendment of section 3

41. Section 3 of the principal Act is amended by substituting for the words “be punished with death” the words “be punished with imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years and with whipping with not less than twelve strokes”.

Amendment of section 3A

42. Section 3A of the principal Act is amended by substituting for the words “be punished with death” the words “be punished with imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years and with whipping with not less than twelve strokes”.

Amendment of section 4

43. Section 4 of the principal Act is amended by substituting for the words “imprisonment for life” the words “imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years”.

Amendment of section 5

44. Section 5 of the principal Act is amended by substituting for the words “imprisonment for life” the words “imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years”.

Amendment of section 7

45. Section 7 of the principal Act is amended by substituting for subsection (1) the following subsection:

“(1) Any person trafficking in firearms shall be punished with imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years and with whipping with not less than six strokes.”.

Transitional

46. Upon the coming into operation of this Act, if a person is convicted by any court for the commission of an offence under section 3, 3A or 7 of the principal Act, the person, whether at a trial or on an appeal, shall be sentenced in accordance with the provisions of the principal Act as amended by this Act even though the offence was committed before the date of coming into operation of this Act.

PART IV

AMENDMENTS TO THE ARMS ACT 1960

Amendment of section 2

47. The Arms Act 1960, which is referred to as the “principal Act” in this Part, is amended in subsection 2(1) by deleting the definition of “imprisonment for life”.

Amendment of section 14

48. Section 14 of the principal Act is amended—

(a) by substituting for subsection (1) the following subsection:

“(1) Any person who manufactures an arm or ammunition without a valid licence granted under section 12 or in contravention of any condition imposed under paragraph 12(2)(a) shall, on conviction—

(a) be punished with imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years and with whipping of not less than six strokes; and

(b) in the case of a company, firm, society or body of persons, be punished with a fine not exceeding five million ringgit.”; and

(b) in subsection (2)—

(i) by substituting for the words “twenty-five thousand ringgit” the words “two hundred and fifty thousand ringgit”; and

(ii) by substituting for the words “one hundred thousand ringgit” the words “one million ringgit”.

Amendment of section 32

49. Paragraph 32(1)(a) of the principal Act is amended by substituting for the words “imprisonment for life or for a term not exceeding fourteen years” the words “imprisonment for a term not exceeding forty years”.

Deletion of section 46

50. Section 46 of the principal Act is deleted.

Transitional

51. Upon the coming into operation of this Act, if a person is convicted by any court for the commission of an offence under paragraph 14(1)(a) of the principal Act, the person, whether at a trial or on an appeal, shall be sentenced in accordance with the provisions of the principal Act as amended by this Act even though the offence was committed before the date of coming into operation of this Act.

PART V

AMENDMENT TO THE KIDNAPPING ACT 1961

Amendment of section 3

52. The Kidnapping Act 1961, which is referred to as the “principal Act” in this Part, is amended in subsection 3(1) by substituting for the words “with death or imprisonment for life and shall, if he is not sentenced to death, also be liable to whipping” the words “with imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years and with whipping”.

Transitional

53. Upon the coming into operation of this Act, if a person is convicted by any court for the commission of an offence under section 3 of the principal Act, the person, whether at a trial or on an appeal, shall be sentenced in accordance with the provisions of the principal Act as amended by this Act even though the offence was committed before the date of coming into operation of this Act.

PART VI

AMENDMENT TO THE DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT 1952

Amendment of section 39B

54. The Dangerous Drugs Act 1952, which is referred to as the “principal Act” in this Part, is amended in section 39B—

(a) in subsection (2), by substituting for the words “be punished with whipping of not less than fifteen strokes” the words “be punished with whipping of not less than twelve strokes”; and

(b) by deleting subsections (2A) and (2B).

Transitional

55. Upon the coming into operation of this Act, if a person is convicted by any court for the commission of an offence under section 39B of the principal Act, the person, whether at a trial or on an appeal, shall be sentenced in accordance with the provisions of the principal Act as amended by this Act even though the offence was committed before the date of coming into operation of this Act.

PART VII

AMENDMENTS TO THE STRATEGIC TRADE ACT 2010

Amendment of section 9

56. The Strategic Trade Act 2010, which is referred to as the “principal Act” in this Part, is amended—

(a) in subparagraph 9(4)(a)(i)(A) by substituting for the words “imprisonment for natural life” the words “imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years”;

- (b) in subsubparagraph 9(5)(a)(i)(A) by substituting for the words “imprisonment for natural life” the words “imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years”; and
- (c) in subsubparagraph 9(6)(a)(i)(A) by substituting for the words “imprisonment for natural life” the words “imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years”.

Amendment of section 10

57. Paragraph 10(2)(a) of the principal Act is amended by substituting for the words “imprisonment for natural life” the words “imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years”.

Amendment of section 11

58. Subparagraph 11(2)(a)(i) of the principal Act is amended by substituting for the words “imprisonment for natural life” the words “imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years”.

Amendment of section 12

59. Subsubparagraph 12(4)(a)(i)(A) of the principal Act is amended by substituting for the words “imprisonment for natural life” the words “imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years”.

Transitional

60. Upon the coming into operation of this Act, if a person is convicted by any court for the commission of an offence under subsubparagraph 9(4)(a)(i)(A), subsubparagraph 9(5)(a)(i)(A), subsubparagraph 9(6)(a)(i)(A), paragraph 10(2)(a), subparagraph 11(2)(a)(i) or subsubparagraph 12(4)(a)(i)(A) of the principal Act, the person, whether at a trial or on an appeal, shall be sentenced in accordance with the provisions of the principal Act as amended by this Act even though the offence was committed before the date of coming into operation of this Act.

PART VIII

AMENDMENTS TO THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE

Amendment of section 15

61. The Criminal Procedure Code, which is referred to as the “Code” in this Part, is amended in subsection 15(3) by inserting after the words “punishable with death” the words “or with imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years”.

Amendment of section 172D

62. Subparagraph 172D(3)(b)(ii) of the Code is amended by substituting for the words “imprisonment for natural life” the words “imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years”.

Amendment of section 388

63. Subsection 388(1) of the Code is amended by inserting after the words “imprisonment for life” the words “or imprisonment for a term which may extend to forty years”.

Amendment of section 425A

64. Subsection 425A(2) of the Code is amended by substituting for paragraph (c) the following paragraph:

“(c) imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years.”.

Amendment of First Schedule

65. The First Schedule to the Code is amended—

- (a) in the item relating to section 115 of the Penal Code, in column (2), by inserting after the words “imprisonment for life” the words “or imprisonment for a term which may extend to twenty years or upwards”;

- (b) in the item relating to section 118 of the Penal Code, in column (2), by inserting after the words “imprisonment for life” the words “or imprisonment for a term which may extend to twenty years or upwards”;
- (c) in the item relating to section 119 of the Penal Code, in column (2), by inserting after the words “imprisonment for life” the words “or imprisonment for a term which may extend to twenty years or upwards”;
- (d) in the item relating to section 121 of the Penal Code, in column (7), by substituting for the words “imprisonment for life” the words “imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years”;
- (e) in the item relating to section 121A of the Penal Code, in column (7), by substituting for the words “and fine” the words “or imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years, and if not sentenced to death, with whipping of not less than twelve strokes”;
- (f) in the item relating to section 121B of the Penal Code, in column (7), by substituting for the words “Imprisonment for life” the words “Imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years”;
- (g) in the item relating to section 122 of the Penal Code, in column (7), by substituting for the words “Imprisonment for life, or imprisonment for twenty years” the words “Imprisonment for a term not exceeding forty years”;
- (h) in the item relating to section 124K of the Penal Code, in column (7), by substituting for the words “Imprisonment for life” the words “Imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years”;
- (i) in the item relating to section 124M of the Penal Code, in column (7), by substituting for the words “Imprisonment for life” the words “Imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years”;

- (j) in the item relating to section 125 of the Penal Code, in column (7), by substituting for the words “Imprisonment for life, and fine; or imprisonment for twenty years and fine;” the words “Imprisonment for a term not exceeding forty years and fine;”;
- (k) in the item relating to section 125A of the Penal Code, in column (7), by substituting for the words “Imprisonment for life, and fine; or imprisonment for twenty years and fine;” the words “Imprisonment for a term not exceeding forty years and fine;”;
- (l) in the item relating to section 128 of the Penal Code, in column (7), by substituting for the words “Imprisonment for life, or imprisonment for twenty years” the words “Imprisonment for a term not exceeding forty years”;
- (m) in the item relating to section 130 of the Penal Code, in column (7), by substituting for the words “Imprisonment for life, or imprisonment for twenty years” the words “Imprisonment for a term not exceeding forty years”;
- (n) in the item relating to section 130c of the Penal Code, in column (7), by inserting after the word “Death” the words “or imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years, and if not sentenced to death, with whipping of not less than twelve strokes”;
- (o) in the item relating to section 130D of the Penal Code, in column (7), by substituting for the words “Imprisonment for life, or imprisonment for thirty years” the words “Imprisonment for a term not exceeding forty years”;
- (p) in the item relating to section 130I of the Penal Code, in column (7), by inserting after the word “Death” the words “or imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years, and if not sentenced to death, with whipping of not less than twelve strokes”;
- (q) in the item relating to section 130J of the Penal Code, in column (7), by substituting for the words “Imprisonment for life, or imprisonment for thirty years” the words “Imprisonment for a term not exceeding forty years”;

- (r) in the item relating to section 130K of the Penal Code, in column (7), by substituting for the words “Imprisonment for life, and fine; or imprisonment for twenty years” the words “Imprisonment for a term not exceeding forty years, and fine”;
- (s) in the item relating to section 130KA of the Penal Code, in column (7), by substituting for the words “imprisonment for life” the words “forty years”;
- (t) in the item relating to section 130N of the Penal Code, in column (7), by inserting after the word “Death” the words “or imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years, and if not sentenced to death, with whipping of not less than twelve strokes”;
- (u) in the item relating to section 130O of the Penal Code, in column (7), by inserting after the word “Death” the words “or imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years, and if not sentenced to death, with whipping of not less than twelve strokes”;
- (v) in the item relating to section 130QA of the Penal Code, in column (7), by substituting for the words “If the act results in death, with death, in any other case, imprisonment for not less than seven years but not exceeding thirty years, and fine” the words “Death or imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years, and if not sentenced to death, with whipping of not less than twelve strokes; or imprisonment for not less than seven years but not exceeding thirty years, and fine”;
- (w) in the item relating to section 130ZB of the Penal Code, in column (7), by substituting for the words “If the act results in death, with death, in any other case, imprisonment for not less than seven years but not exceeding thirty years, and fine” the words “Death or imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years, and if not sentenced to death, with whipping of not less than twelve strokes; or imprisonment for not less than seven years but not exceeding thirty years, and fine”;

- (x) in the item relating to section 201 of the Penal Code, in column (2), by inserting after the words “imprisonment for ten years” the words “or upwards”;
- (y) in the item relating to section 212 of the Penal Code, in column (2), by inserting after the words “imprisonment for ten years” the words “or upwards”;
- (z) in the item relating to section 213 of the Penal Code, in column (2), by inserting after the words “imprisonment for ten years” the words “or upwards”;
- (aa) in the item relating to section 214 of the Penal Code, in column (2), by inserting after the words “imprisonment for ten years” the words “or upwards”;
- (bb) in the item relating to section 216 of the Penal Code, in column (2), by inserting after the words “imprisonment for ten years” the words “or upwards”;
- (cc) in the item relating to section 221 of the Penal Code, in column (2), by inserting after the words “imprisonment for ten years” the words “or upwards”;
- (dd) in the item relating to section 302 of the Penal Code, in column (7), by inserting after the word “Death” the words “or imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years, and if not sentenced to death, with whipping of not less than twelve strokes”;
- (ee) in relation to section 307 of the Penal Code, by deleting the item “Attempt by life convict to murder, if hurt is caused” and the particulars relating to it;
- (ff) in the item relating to section 364 of the Penal Code, in column (7), by substituting for the words “Death, or imprisonment for thirty years” the words “Imprisonment for a term of not more than thirty years”;

- (gg) in the item relating to section 374A of the Penal Code, in column (7), by inserting after the word “Death” the words “or imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years, and if not sentenced to death, with whipping of not less than twelve strokes”; and
- (hh) in the item relating to section 450 of the Penal Code, in column (2), by inserting after the words “punishable with imprisonment for life” the words “, imprisonment for twenty years or upwards”.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Abolition of Mandatory Death Penalty Bill 2023 (“the proposed Act”) seeks to abolish the mandatory death penalty, to vary the sentence of imprisonment for natural life and whipping, and to provide for matters connected therewith by amending the Penal Code (“Act 574”), the Firearms (Increased Penalties) Act 1971 (“Act 37”), the Arms Act 1960 (“Act 206”), the Kidnapping Act 1961 (“Act 365”), the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 (“Act 234”), the Strategic Trade Act 2010 (“Act 708”) and the Criminal Procedure Code (“Act 593”) in line with the Government policy to abolish the mandatory death penalty in all legislation.

PART I

PRELIMINARY

Part I of the proposed Act deals with preliminary matters.

2. *Clause 1* contains the short title of the proposed Act and the power of the Minister to appoint the commencement date of the proposed Act.
3. *Clause 2* contains the list of Acts amended under the proposed Act.

PART II

AMENDMENTS TO THE PENAL CODE

Part II of the proposed Act deals with the amendments to the Penal Code which seek to, among others, abolish the mandatory death penalty.

4. The amendments to Act 574 seek to substitute the mandatory death penalty with the discretionary death penalty for the offences under sections 121A, 130C, 130I, 130N, 130O, 130QA, 130ZB, 302 and 374A.

5. With these amendments, the court has the discretion whether to impose the death penalty or the sentence of imprisonment for a period of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years and if not sentenced to death, shall also be punished with whipping of not less than twelve strokes for offences against the person of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Ruler or Yang di-Pertua Negeri under section 121A of Act 574, committing terrorist acts under section 130c of Act 574, directing activities of terrorist groups under section 130i of Act 574, providing or collecting property for terrorist acts under section 130N of Act 574, providing services for terrorist purposes under section 130o of Act 574, accepting gratification to facilitate or enable terrorist acts under section 130QA of Act 574 and accepting gratification to facilitate or enable organized criminal activity under section 130ZB of Act 574.

6. *Clause 6* seeks to amend section 121 of Act 574 to vary the sentence for the offence of waging or attempting to wage war or abetting the waging of war against the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, a Ruler or Yang di-Pertua Negeri.

7. *Clauses 21 to 26* seek to amend sections 130K, 130KA, 130N, 130O, 130QA and 130ZB of Act 574 to substitute imprisonment for life, which is defined as imprisonment for natural life for those sections, and other terms of imprisonment with imprisonment for a term of not more than forty years.

8. *Clause 34* seeks to amend section 302 of Act 574 to vary the sentence for the offence of murder. This amendment is to abolish the mandatory death penalty and to give discretion to the judge with regard to the imposition of the death penalty.

9. *Clause 35* seeks to amend section 307 of Act 574 to delete subsection (2) for the offence of attempt to murder if the person committing the offence is serving the sentence of imprisonment for life or for a term of twenty years.

10. *Clause 36* seeks to amend section 364 of Act 574 to vary the sentence for the offence of kidnapping or abducting in order to murder. This amendment is to abolish the death penalty.

11. *Clause 37* seeks to amend section 374A of Act 574 to vary the sentence for the offence of hostage-taking. This amendment is to abolish the mandatory death penalty in paragraph (a).

12. *Clause 39* seeks to provide for a transitional provision relating to any person who has committed an offence under section 121, 121A, 302 or 364 or paragraph 130C(1)(a), 130i(a), 130N(a), 130O(1)(aa), 130QA(a), 130ZB(a) or 374A(a) of Act 574 before the date of coming into operation of this Act.

PART III

AMENDMENTS TO THE FIREARMS (INCREASED PENALTIES) ACT 1971

Part III of the proposed Act deals with the amendments to the Firearms (Increased Penalties) Act 1971.

13. *Clause 40* seeks to amend subsection 2(1) of Act 37 to delete the definition of “imprisonment for life”.

14. *Clause 41* seeks to amend section 3 of Act 37 to vary the penalty for discharging a firearm in the commission of a scheduled offence. This amendment is to substitute the mandatory death penalty with imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years and with whipping of not less than twelve strokes.

15. *Clause 42* seeks to amend section 3A of Act 37 to vary the penalty for accomplices in the case of discharging firearm. This amendment is to substitute the mandatory death penalty with imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years and with whipping of not less than twelve strokes.

16. *Clauses 43 and 44* seek to amend sections 4 and 5 of Act 37 respectively to vary the penalty for exhibiting a firearm and having a firearm on his person at the time of the commission of a scheduled offence.

17. *Clause 45* seeks to amend section 7 of Act 37 to vary the penalty for trafficking in firearms by, among others, abolishing the death penalty.

18. *Clause 46* seeks to provide for a transitional provision relating to any person who has committed an offence under section 3, 3A or 7 of Act 37 before the date of coming into operation of this Act.

PART IV

AMENDMENTS TO THE ARMS ACT 1960

Part IV of the proposed Act deals with the amendments to the Arms Act 1960.

19. *Clause 47* seeks to amend subsection 2(1) of Act 206 to delete the definition of “imprisonment for life”.

20. *Clause 48* seeks to amend section 14 of Act 206 to vary the sentences for manufacturing an arm or ammunition without a valid licence and for the breach of conditions of an arm or ammunition manufacturing licence.

21. *Clause 49* seeks to amend paragraph 32(1)(a) of Act 206 in order to substitute the punishment of imprisonment for life under that paragraph with imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years.

22. *Clause 51* seeks to provide for a transitional provision relating to any person who has committed an offence under paragraph 14(1)(a) of Act 206 before the date of coming into operation of this Act.

PART V

AMENDMENT TO THE KIDNAPPING ACT 1961

Part V of the proposed Act deals with the amendment to the Kidnapping Act 1961.

23. *Clause 52* seeks to amend section 3 of Act 365 to vary the penalty for the offence of abduction, wrongful restraint or wrongful confinement for ransom by, among others, abolishing the death penalty.

24. *Clause 53* seeks to provide for a transitional provision relating to any person who has committed an offence under section 3 of Act 365 before the date of coming into operation of this Act.

PART VI

AMENDMENT TO THE DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT 1952

Part VI of the proposed Act deals with the amendment to the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952.

25. *Clause 54* seeks to amend section 39B of Act 234.

Subclause 54(a) seeks to vary the penalty for trafficking in dangerous drugs in subsection 39B (2) of Act 234 by varying the number of whipping from a minimum of fifteen strokes to a minimum of twelve strokes if the death sentence is not imposed.

Subclause 54(b) seeks to delete subsections 39B(2A) and (2B) of Act 234 in order to give a judge the discretion whether or not to impose the death penalty without having regard to the circumstances in subsection (2A) read together with subsection (2B).

26. *Clause 55* seeks to provide for a transitional provision relating to any person who has committed an offence under section 39B of Act 234 before the date of coming into operation of this Act.

PART VII

AMENDMENTS TO THE STRATEGIC TRADE ACT 2010

Part VII of the proposed Act deals with the amendments to the Strategic Trade Act 2010.

27. *Clauses 56, 57, 58 and 59* seek to amend subsubparagraph 9(4)(a)(i)(A), subsubparagraph 9(5)(a)(i)(A), subsubparagraph 9(6)(a)(i)(A), paragraph 10(2)(a), subparagraph 11(2)(a)(i) and subsubparagraph 12(4)(a)(i)(A) of Act 708 to substitute the sentence of imprisonment for natural life with imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years.

28. *Clause 60* seeks to provide for a transitional provision relating to any person who has committed an offence under subsubparagraph 9(4)(a)(i)(A), subsubparagraph 9(5)(a)(i)(A), subsubparagraph 9(6)(a)(i)(A), paragraph 10(2)(a), subparagraph 11(2)(a)(i) or subsubparagraph 12(4)(a)(i)(A) of Act 708 before the date of coming into operation of the proposed Act.

PART VIII

AMENDMENTS TO THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE

Part VIII of the proposed Act deals with the amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code consequential to the amendments made to Act 574 to, among others, abolish the mandatory death penalty.

29. *Clause 61* seeks to amend subsection 15(3) of Act 593 to provide that nothing in section 15 of Act 593 gives the right, to a police officer or any other person, when making an arrest to cause the death of a person who is not accused of an offence punishable with death or with imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years.

30. *Clause 63* seeks to amend subsection 388(1) of Act 593 to also provide that if an Officer in charge of a Police District or a Court has reasonable grounds for believing that a person who is accused of any non-bailable offence is arrested or detained without warrant has committed an offence which is punishable with imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years but not exceeding forty years, that person cannot be released on bail unless the Court is satisfied that the person is under the age of sixteen years old, is a woman, is sick or is an infirm person.

31. *Clause 65* seeks to amend the First Schedule of Act 593 as a consequence of amendments made to the Penal Code.

GENERAL

32. Other amendments not specifically dealt with in this Explanatory Statement are minor or consequential in nature.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This Bill will involve the Government in extra financial expenditure the amount of which cannot at present be ascertained.

[PN(U2)3139]