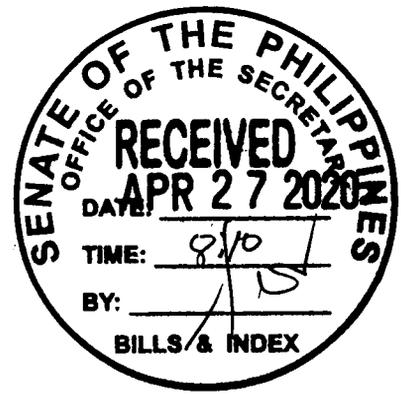


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



SENATE
P.S.RES. NO. 363

Introduced by **SENATORS VICENTE C. SOTTO III** and **FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO**

RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE ON THE DEATH OF HONORABLE HEHERSON T. ALVAREZ, FORMER SENATOR(1987-1998), FORMER MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (1998-2001), AND FORMER MEMBER OF THE CABINET

WHEREAS, Honorable Heherson "Sonny" T. Alvarez, a freedom fighter, a land reform champion, a debater par excellence, an environmental warrior, a human rights advocate, an exemplary lawmaker, an exceptional statesman, a fearless leader, a dedicated public servant, a patriot, and a respectable Filipino, passed away on April 20, 2020 at the age of 80;

WHEREAS, the bright and brave young man from Isabela studied liberal arts and law at the University of the Philippines (U.P.) and thereafter obtained his Master's degree in Economics and Public Administration from John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University where he was conferred the Edward S. Mason Fellow in Public Policy and Management in Developing Countries and his Doctorate in Environmental Science, *honoris causa*, from the Mindanao State University;

WHEREAS, he had served his country and countrymen for more than four decades in various capacities, to wit: Senator, Member of the House of Representatives, Minister of Agrarian Reform, Secretary of Agrarian Reform, Ambassador Extraordinary Plenipotentiary to the U. S., Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, Delegate to the 1971 Constitutional Convention, Presidential Adviser on Overseas Filipino Communities, Presidential Adviser on Global Warming and Climate Change, Commissioner of Climate Change Commission, Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Climate Institute, Presidential Adviser on Agrarian Reform, and Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Philippine Mining Development Corporation;

WHEREAS, the young political activist from Isabela commenced his political career when he served as one of the youngest delegates to the 1971 Constitutional

Convention (CONCON) as an oppositionist who refused to sign the charter produced by the convention and publicly criticize the Marcos administration resulting to his forced self-exile to the U. S. to join and assist his fellow oppositionists in the Movement for Free Philippines in consolidating all anti-Marcos Filipinos in the U. S.;

WHEREAS, when former Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, Jr. was assassinated upon his return to the Philippines in 1983, he immediately formed the Ninoy Aquino Movement to convince the U. S. government to cut military aid to the Philippines and to pressure then President Marcos to call for a snap presidential election which election failed and triggered the February 1986 military-backed people power revolt that deposed Marcos and installed Ninoy's widow, Corazon "Cory" Aquino, as the new Philippine President;

WHEREAS, President Cory appointed him as Ambassador Extraordinary Plenipotentiary to the U. S. and, upon his return to the Philippines, as Minister of Agrarian Reform which was renamed as Department of Agrarian Reform, and convinced him to run as Senator in the first election held under the 1987 Constitution;

WHEREAS, on his first term as a senator (1987-1992), he focused on policies that promote environmental protection, human rights, modernizing the economy, and democratizing Philippine politics, including: RA 6657 or the "Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988," RA 7586 or the "National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992," RA 7611 or the "Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) for Palawan Act," RA 7638 or the "Department of Energy Act of 1992," RA 7393 or the "Expanded Quedan Corporation," RA 6938 or the "Cooperative Code of the Philippines," RA 6939 or the Act Creating the Cooperative Development Authority, RA 7356 or the Law Creating the National Commission for Culture and the Arts;

WHEREAS, during his second term as a senator (1992-1998), he continued advocating environmental concerns both here and abroad, organizing groups such as the "Healthy Air Pact of 1993", the "Philippine Earth Savers Movement" and the "National Green Cross", and working hard in the passage of the following pieces of legislation such as RA 8550 or the "Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998," RA 8479 or the "Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Act of 1998," RA 7844 or the "Export Development Act of 1994," RA 8175 or the "Revised Charter of the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation Act of 1995," RA 8435 or the "Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997," RA 8189 or the Voter's Registration Act of 1996," RA 7832 or the "Anti-electricity and Electric Transmission Lines/Materials Pilferage Act of 1994," RA 8371 or the "Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997";

WHEREAS, through his active intercession, the Philippine Senate ratified various international environmental agreements, such as: the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, and the BASEL Convention on the Trans-boundary Movement of Wastes;

WHEREAS, as Member of the House of Representatives representing the Fourth District of Isabela (1998-2001), he continued his advocacies as an environmentalist, working for the enactment of the following important measures, to wit: RA 9125 or the "Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park (NSMNP) Act of 2001," RA 9003 or the "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000," and RA 8749 or the "Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999" and as a moralist as he led the fight against the proliferation of pornographic images in the movie and television industry;

WHEREAS, as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and for his sincere concerns for the environment, he earned the moniker "Mr. Environment", always at the forefront of all environmental initiatives both in the Senate and in the House of Representatives, foremost of which are the introduction of unleaded gasoline in the country through the signing of the "Healthy Air Pact of 1993" by the three major oil companies that started the crusade for clean air; the founding of the Earth Savers Movement in the Philippines; the declaration of April 22 of each as "Earth Day"; and the holding of the First Asia-Pacific Conference on Climate Change in Manila in 1995;

WHEREAS, for his outstanding achievements, he received the following awards and recognition from local and international organizations, namely: International Public Policy Achievement Award, Climate Institute, Washington, D.C., September 1996; Outstanding Human Rights Award by the Fund for Free Expression, New York, USA; Likas Yaman Special Citation, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, 1989; Outstanding Alumnus Award, UP Vanguard, 1988; Golden Oblation Award, UP Vanguard, 1988; Ten Most Outstanding Leaders of the North, 1971; Outstanding Alumnus, UP, 1971; Camilo Osias Environmental Award, YMCA; Adopted son of various tribal groups of Cordillera and Muslim Communities for distinguished and concerned leadership for the cause of indigenous communities; and Outstanding Senator Awards by the different print and multi-media award giving bodies;

WHEREAS, in recognition of his steadfast commitment to good governance and his passion for the protection of the people and the environment through sustainable development, then President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo appointed him Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Presidential Adviser on Overseas Filipino Communities to beef up the government reintegration program that help OFWs who are returning to the country to find work or earn a living, Presidential Adviser on Agrarian Reform, Presidential Adviser on Global Warming and Climate Change, Commissioner of Climate Change Commission and Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Philippine Mining Development Corporation;

WHEREAS, his passing away is a great loss not only to his bereaved family but also to the people and nation he had served very well, to whom he unselfishly offered his time, talent and wealth, amidst danger to his life and his family, to regain their freedom and to restore democracy, with the advice "that people should learn how to appreciate the freedom they enjoy by remembering those who fought for it

in the darkest episodes of Philippine history because they might lose it, if they would never care for it": Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, To express, as it hereby expresses, its profound sympathy and sincere condolences on the death of Honorable Heherson T. Alvarez, former Senator (1987-1998), former Member of the House of Representatives (1998-2001), and former Member of the Cabinet.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That a copy of this Resolution be furnished to his bereaved family.

Adopted,


VICENTE C. SOTTO III


FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO