

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

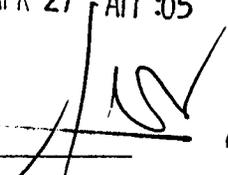


Senate
Office of the Secretary

SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 371

20 APR 27 A11 :05

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senators Juan Miguel F. Zubiri, Richard J. Gordon, Sonny Angara, Sherwin Gatchalian, Ma. Lourdes Nancy S. Binay and Joel Villanueva

RESOLUTION
EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF
THE SENATE ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE HEHERSON "SONNY"
TURINGAN ALVAREZ, FORMER SENATOR, ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATE AND
HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST

WHEREAS, the Honorable Heherson "Sonny" Turingan Alvarez, a distinguished legislator, dedicated public servant, environmental advocate, human rights activist, and a loving husband and father, passed away on 20 April 2020, at the age of 80, due to complications from the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19);

WHEREAS, in his many years as a dedicated public servant, he competently served the government in various capacities: as the first Agrarian Reform Secretary from 1986 to 1987 under President Corazon Aquino's transition government, as Senator for two terms, from 1987 to 1998, as Representative of the 4th District of Isabela from 1998 to 2001, as Environment Secretary from 2001 to 2002, as Presidential Adviser on Overseas Filipino Communities in 2003, as Presidential Adviser on Agrarian Reform from 2005 to 2007, as Presidential Adviser on Global Warming and Climate Change from 2009 to 2010, as Vice Chairperson of the Climate Change Commission from 2010 to 2011 and as Commissioner of the same from 2010 to 2015;

WHEREAS, born on 26 October 1939 in Santiago, Isabela, he spent the early years of his life in pursuit of learning, studying Liberal Arts and Law at the University of the Philippines and completing a Master's degree in Economics and Public Administration at Harvard University;

WHEREAS, he was one of the youngest among the 320 delegates elected to the 1971 Constitutional Convention, representing the lone district of his home province of Isabela;

WHEREAS, as a staunch human rights activist, he opposed the Marcos regime and was one of the few who refused to sign the Constitution that would legitimize it;

WHEREAS, as a member of the opposition, he was forced to go on exile in the United States after the declaration of Martial Law in 1972, where he founded the Ninoy

Aquino Movement, an opposition movement that called for the US government to cut military and economic aid that was being granted to the Marcos government;

WHEREAS, as a distinguished legislator, he authored several major pieces of legislation in his many areas of advocacy: Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, Clean Air Act of 1999, National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS) Act, Solid Waste Management Act, Northern Sierra Madre Protected Area Act, Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan, laws creating the Cooperative Development Authority, the Department of Energy, and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and a resolution declaring April 22 of every year as Earth Day in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, as an environmental advocate, he founded the Earth Savers Movement, Inc., a non-profit and non-government Civil Society Organization which aims to "save the environment against the worsening problem of air and water pollution and the looming problem of Climate Change" in 1991;

WHEREAS, he initiated the signing of the Healthy Air Pact of 1993, an agreement among the three major oil companies of the country to reduce the lead content in gasoline from 0.6 gram per liter to 0.15 gram per liter, a move which eventually resulted to the introduction of unleaded gasoline to the market in February 1994;

WHEREAS, as a visionary leader in the fight against climate change, he convened, together with the United Nations Environmental Programme, the first Asia Pacific Leaders Conference on Climate Change in Manila on 21 February 1995, which resulted in the Manila Declaration that recognized the risks posed by climate change to "small island states, and coastal and other nations of the Asia Pacific Region";

WHEREAS, throughout his career, he received numerous awards and citations from various institutions including: International Public Policy Achievement Award by the Climate Institute in Washington, D.C., making him the first Asian recipient of said award, EDSA People Power Freedom Award by the People Power Commission, Most Outstanding Senate Lawmaker in Environmental Protection by the UP Institute for Strategic Development Studies, Outstanding Alumnus Award by the University of the Philippines, Gusi Peace Prize for Public Service by the Gusi Peace Prize Foundation, and the Outstanding Human Rights Award by the Fund for Free Expression in New York, among many others;

WHEREAS, we mourn the loss of an exceptional leader and visionary, who dedicated his life for the good of his country and the Filipino people, fighting for what is right and just, and championing issues for the benefit of our future generations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, To express, as it hereby expresses, its profound sympathy and sincere condolences on the death of the Honorable Heherson "Sonny" Turingan Alvarez, former Senator, environmental advocate and human rights activist.

Resolved further, That a copy of this Resolution be given to the bereaved family of the late Senator Heherson "Sonny" Turingan Alvarez.

Adopted,



JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

RICHARD J. GORDON



SONNY ANGARA



SHERWIN GATCHALIAN



MA. LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY



JOEL VILLANUEVA

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