

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE ]  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES ]  
First Regular Session ]

'22 AUG 11 P5:19

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE

P. S. Res No. 132

---

Introduced by SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN

---

**RESOLUTION**  
**EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE**  
**CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE DEATH**  
**OF LYDIA DE VEGA-MERCADO, ASIA'S FASTEST WOMAN AND THE**  
**PRIDE OF THE PHILIPPINES IN THE 1980S**

1           **WHEREAS**, one of the most decorated sprinters in the country's history  
2 and Asia's Fastest Woman in the 1980s, Lydia De Vega-Mercado, succumbed  
3 to illness on August 10, 2022, at the age of 57<sup>1</sup>;

4  
5           **WHEREAS**, Lydia de Vega-Mercado started bringing glory to the country  
6 when she was only 16 years old, at the 1981 SEA Games in Manila where she  
7 won the 200m and 400m golds, exceeding the Asian Games marks<sup>2</sup>, a  
8 remarkable opening salvo to a long and successful athletics career;

9  
10           **WHEREAS**, the 1982 Asian Games in New Delhi, India was the start of  
11 Lydia de Vega-Mercado's ascent as Asia's Sprint Queen, when she won her heat  
12 in the 100m in excellent 11.77s and clipped off another 1/100secs winning the

---

<sup>1</sup> [Sports icon Lydia de Vega dies after four-year cancer battle \(rappler.com\)](https://www.rappler.com/sports/olympics/lydia-de-vega-dies), Accessed on August 11, 2022

<sup>2</sup> "She's still their Lydi <http://www.athleticsasia.org/lydia-de-vega-asias-world-class-track-queen-in-the-80s/a>". New Straits Times. November 19, 1991. Retrieved February 25, 2016, accessed, August 11, 2022.

1 finals from India's P. T. Usha (11.95s) and South Korea's Mo Myung Hee  
2 (11.99s).<sup>3</sup>

3

4 **WHEREAS**, Lydia de Vega-Mercado collected a total of fifteen (15) gold  
5 medals across multiple international sports competitions, beginning 1981,  
6 including nine (9)<sup>4</sup> from five (5) Southeast Asian (SEA) Games (1981, 1983,  
7 1987, 1991 & 1993); four (4)<sup>5</sup> from two (2) Asian Athletics Championships  
8 (AAC) (1983 & 1987); and two (2)<sup>6</sup> from two (2) Asian Games (1982 & 1986).  
9 She also won a total of five (5) silvers and two (2) bronze medals in her career  
10 - three (3)<sup>7</sup> silvers in AAC, a silver each in the SEA Games<sup>8</sup> and Asian Games<sup>9</sup>;  
11 and all two (2)<sup>10</sup> bronze medals in the AAC. Lydia De Vega was likewise a two-  
12 time Olympian, participating in the 1984 and 1988 Olympic Games;

13

14 **WHEREAS**, Lydia De Vega-Mercado was revered as Asia's undisputed  
15 fastest woman and her achievements continue to inspire younger generation  
16 of Filipino athletes, especially the young women who are bent on breaking both  
17 barriers and records to uplift our country's spirit and further promote the cause  
18 of championing sports;

19

20 **WHEREAS**, Lydia de Vega-Mercado held the Philippine Record in the  
21 100m of 11.28 seconds from 1987 until 2020. She also held the National 200m  
22 Record for 32 years with 23.35 seconds, where it stood from 1987 until 2019.  
23 Her National and National Junior Record in the 400m stood from 1981 to 2013.  
24 As of December 2020, Lydia de Vega still holds two (2) Philippine Records in  
25 the 60m Indoor and 200m Junior Women's.<sup>11</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> Asia Athletics Organization. [Lydia de Vega: Asia's World-Class Track Queen in the 80s – Home \(athleticsasia.org\)](https://athleticsasia.org), accessed on August 11, 2022.

<sup>4</sup> 1981 Manila (200m, 400m); 1983 Singapore (200m); 1987 Jakarta (100m, 200m, Long Jump); 1991 Manila (100m); 1993 Singapore (100m, 200m)

<sup>5</sup> 1983 Kuwait City (100m, 200m); 1987 Singapore (100m, 200m)

<sup>6</sup> 1982 New Delhi (100m); 1986 Seoul (100m)

<sup>7</sup> 1983 Kuwait City (400m); 1981 Tokyo (400m, 4x400 m)

<sup>8</sup> 1991 Manila (200m)

<sup>9</sup> 1986 Seoul (200m)

<sup>10</sup> 1981 Tokyo (200m); 1985 Jakarta (100m)

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.pinoathletics.info/lydia-de-vega/?amp>, accessed on August 11, 2022

1

2           **WHEREAS**, throughout her stellar career, Lydia de Vega-Mercado not  
3 only ruled the race tracks, she also won the hearts of Filipinos for her world-  
4 class talent. Her victories in the sports of track and field rallied our country,  
5 bringing it in the limelight of world sports competition and giving our  
6 countrymen a great sense of national pride and honor;

7

8           **RESOLVED BY THE SENATE**, to express, as it hereby expresses, its  
9 profound sympathy and sincere condolences on the demise of Lydia De Vega-  
10 Mercado, Asia's Fastest Woman and the Pride of the Philippines in the 1980s;

11

12           **RESOLVED, FURTHER**, that a copy of this Resolution be furnished to  
13 the bereaved family of the late Lydia de Vega-Mercado.

*Adopted,*



**WIN GATCHALIAN**