

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines

Senate

Pasay City

Sixteenth Congress

Third Regular Session

RESOLUTION NO. 118

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND
SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCE OF THE
SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE DEATH
OF ITS BELOVED FORMER PRESIDENT, THE
HONORABLE JOVITO R. SALONGA

WHEREAS, Honorable Jovito R. Salonga, a patriot and nationalist, former Senate President, three-time topnotcher in senatorial elections, former Member of the House of Representatives, first Chairman of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), former law dean, author, bar topnotcher, and an outstanding public servant, passed away on 10 March 2016, at the age of 95;

WHEREAS, born on 22 June 1920, to humble parents Esteban Salonga, a Presbyterian pastor, and Bernardita Reyes, a market vendor, the young Jovito from Pasig, Rizal grew up to become an outstanding student and champion debater and orator at the University of the Philippines College of Law,

joined the guerrilla movement during World War II, was incarcerated, tortured and later freed by the Japanese;

WHEREAS, he was a co-topnotcher in the 1944 Bar Examinations with a grade of 95.3%, and then pursued his graduate studies in the United States on scholarship grants, earning his Master of Laws (LL.M.) from Harvard Law School in 1948 and Doctor of the Science of Law (J.S.D.) from Yale Law School in 1949;

WHEREAS, in 1961, at the peak of his law practice and teaching career, he ran and was elected Representative of the 2nd District of Rizal and distinguished himself as Chairman of the Legal Committee at the Anglo-Philippine talks and the powerful Committee on Good Government which investigated the celebrated Stonehill case;

WHEREAS, despite the lack of financial means, he would run and top the senatorial elections held in 1965 and would repeat this feat during the 1971 and 1987 senatorial races, thus distinguishing himself as the only person in the history of Philippine politics who emerged at the top of three senatorial elections;

WHEREAS, when Martial Law was imposed on 21 September 1972, he was among those who openly and vigorously opposed the closure of Congress and the imposition of one-man rule and would serve as counsel to prominent opposition leaders arrested and detained during the dictatorship;

WHEREAS, he was then implicated in the series of bombings in Metro Manila and was arrested and incarcerated for more than seven years but was allowed to leave with his wife in March 1981, to attend several international conferences and undergo medical procedures in the United States where they were later forced to live in self-exile in Hawaii and California as subversion charges were filed against him;

WHEREAS, he returned to the Philippines on 21 January 1985, to help unite the democratic opposition and when President Corazon C. Aquino assumed power in 1986, he was appointed PCGG Chairman and as such he had accomplished the recovery of ill-gotten wealth consisting of billions of cash

and bank deposits, and several titles to real property and their turnover to the government;

WHEREAS, when a restored Congress opened its sessions on 27 July 1987, under a constitutional democracy, he was elected Senate President by his peers who saw in him a respected leader with an untainted record in public service, a leadership which combines power and conscience, authority and selflessness;

WHEREAS, on 16 September 1991, he led a group of 12 senators who rejected the extension of the RP-US Military Bases Agreement and ended 470 years of foreign military presence in the country;

WHEREAS, a 2007 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Government Service and a recipient of numerous international and local academic and civic awards and citations, Senator Salonga left an indelible mark of his statesmanship authoring vital measures such as the State Scholarship Law, the Disclosure of Interest Act, the Magna Carta for Public School Teachers, the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, the Anti-Coup d'état Act and the Act Defining and Penalizing the Crime of Plunder;

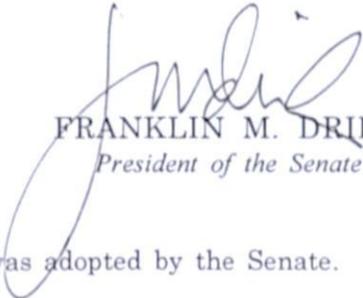
WHEREAS, he founded the *Bantayog ng Bayani* Foundation, a private entity that honors the nation's martyrs who fought and sacrificed their lives against the tyranny of a dictatorship, and after his retirement from politics, organized the *Kilosbayan* and *Bantay Katarungan*, both independent, non-partisan, ethics-oriented organizations that seek to improve governance in public service and the administration of justice in the country;

WHEREAS, the members of this august Chamber join the whole nation and his family in their moment of bereavement over the departure of an extraordinary leader and statesman who served as a shepherd who eased the fears of a people transiting from dictatorship to democracy and who stood as a bright lamp that rekindled a nation's nationalist fervor: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, To express, as it hereby expresses, its profound sympathy and sincere condolence on the death of its beloved President, the Honorable Jovito R. Salonga;

Resolved, further, That a copy of this Resolution be furnished the bereaved family of the Honorable Jovito R. Salonga.

Adopted,



FRANKLIN M. DRILON
President of the Senate

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate.



OSCAR G. YABES
Secretary of the Senate

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