

P. S. Res. Nos. 363, 366,
371 and 382

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines

Senate

Manila City

Eighteenth Congress

First Regular Session



RESOLUTION NO. 44

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, for more than four decades, he competently served the government 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, this young political activist from Isabela started his political career when he was elected delegate to the 1971 Constitutional Convention (CONCON), and that he was one of a few who refused to sign the charter produced by the Convention and publicly criticized the Marcos administration resulting in 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, elected as senator in the first election held under the 1987 Constitution, Senator Alvarez translated his environmental and agrarian reform advocacies into legislation, most notably were RA 6657 or the "Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988", the centerpiece of the Cory Aquino Administration, 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 promoting agriculture and fisheries modernization through 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", and RA 8435 or the "Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization 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: 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, a staunch environmentalist, 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 were 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, 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 of the Philippines, 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
President of the Senate

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate on
May 4, 2020.



MYRA MARIE D. VILLARICA

Secretary of the Senate



0