

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines

Senate

Manila City

Eighteenth Congress

First Regular Session



RESOLUTION NO. 50

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE ON THE DEATH OF HONORABLE MARIA TERESA "TESSIE" AQUINO ORETA, FORMER SENATOR (1998-2004), FORMER MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (1987-1998), AND THE FIRST WOMAN ASSISTANT MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WHEREAS, the Honorable Maria Teresa "Tessie" Aquino Oreta, former Senator (1998-2004), former Member of the House of Representatives (1987-1998), the first woman Assistant Majority Leader of the Lower House, a reserved officer of the Philippine Air Force, a devoted public servant, and a loving grandmother, mother, and wife, passed away on 14 May 2020 at the age of 75;

WHEREAS, the youngest sister of former Senator Ninoy Aquino, Jr. obtained her education from different learning institutions, namely: College of the Holy Spirit in Mendiola for her primary education, Assumption College for her high school education and her degree in Literature and History, Ciudad Ducal, Avila, Spain for her International Studies degree, and the National Defense College of the Philippines for her Master's Degree in National Security Administration;

WHEREAS, after the ratification of the 1987 Constitution, she ran and won as Representative of the lone district of Malabon-Navotas, serving as such for three consecutive terms until 1998;

WHEREAS, as Member of the House of Representatives, she was elected as Assistant Majority Floor Leader in the 8th and 10th Congresses, thus earning for her the rare distinction of being the first woman Assistant Majority Floor Leader in the history of the Lower House;

WHEREAS, the hardworking legislator focused on issues concerning education, women and children, livelihood and employment, food and health, as well as the improvement of public facilities in Malabon and the nation in general, authoring and coauthoring about 280 bills, 79 of which were enacted into laws, and proposed 101 local and national resolutions, 20 of which were adopted;

WHEREAS, a strong advocate of women's health empowerment, she authored and was instrumental in the enactment of Republic Act No. 6864, entitled "An Act Establishing a Ten-Bed Municipal Hospital in the Municipality of Malabon, Metro Manila, to be known as the Saint Lorenzo Ruiz Municipal Hospital, and Appropriating Funds Therefor", which law eventually led to the creation in March 1998 of the MAKATAO Center for Women Center/San Lorenzo District Hospital for women in Malabon that provides integrated health services, health education and counselling;

WHEREAS, firmly believing that "education is the key to the improvement of the quality of life of Filipinos", she had always wanted to prepare and helped students and teachers

to fulfill their dreams through the enactment of Republic Act No. 6728, otherwise known as the "Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education Act", which has already helped needy students in private school, and Republic Act No. 6972, also known as the "Barangay-Level Total Development and Protection of Children Act", which mandates the establishment of a Montessori-type facilities in every barangay;

WHEREAS, after completing her three terms as congresswoman, she was elected senator in the 1998 National elections under the Laban ng Makabayang Pilipino (LAMMP) banner;

WHEREAS, as a Senator, she continued her advocacies on education, health, and environment, working really hard in the passage of important and landmark pieces of legislation such as Republic Act No. 8980 or the "Early Childhood Care and Development Act.", Republic Act No. 8972, otherwise known as the "Solo Parents' Welfare Act of 2000", Republic Act No. 9053, or the "Philippine Landscape Architecture Act of 2000", Republic Act No. 8976, or the "Philippine Food Fortification Act of 2000", Republic Act No. 9003, also known as the "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000", Republic Act No. 8749 or the "Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999", Republic Act No. 8792 or the "Electronic Commerce Act of 2000", Republic Act No. 9105 or the "Art Forgery Act of 2001", Republic Act No. 9036, entitled "An Act Strengthening the Governance and Defining the Scope of the Philippine Science High School System Act, Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 8496", and Republic Act No. 9155 or the "Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001";

WHEREAS, as Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Education, Arts and Culture, she vigorously sought to improve the employment status, working conditions, and welfare benefits of public school teachers, notably her swift action in August 2000 which required the concerned agency to issue pay slips to public school teachers, upon learning that the teachers were kept in the dark of any deductions from their salaries in the absence of this basic document;

WHEREAS, the demise of the dedicated and hardworking Senator is a great loss not only to her family but to the nation as well: 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 Maria Teresa "Tessie" Aquino Oreta, former Senator (1998-2004), former Member of the House of Representatives (1987-1998), and the first woman Assistant Majority Floor Leader of the House of Representatives.

Resolved, further, That a copy of this Resolution be furnished to the bereaved family of the late Senator Maria Teresa "Tessie" Aquino Oreta.

Adopted,



VICENTE C. SOTTO III

President of the Senate

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 18, 2020.



MYRA MARIE D. VILLARICA

Secretary of the Senate

by Myra