

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Senate
Pasay City

Eighteenth Congress

First Regular Session



RESOLUTION No. 7

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND
SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF
THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE
DEATH OF MS. REGINA PAZ "GINA" L. LOPEZ,
FORMER SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENT AND
NATURAL RESOURCES AND CHAIRPERSON OF
PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION COMMISSION

WHEREAS, Ms. Regina Paz "Gina" L. Lopez, former
Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, former
chairperson of Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, former
chairperson of the ABS-CBN Foundation Inc., former

vice-chairperson of ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation, founder of Bantay Bata 163, founder of Bantay Kalikasan, chairman emeritus of the Southeast Asian Children's Television, founder of Investments in Loving Organization for Village Economies (I LOVE), television host, educator, philanthropist, earth warrior, and a patriot, joined her creator on August 19, 2019, at the age of 65;

WHEREAS, a member of the well-off Lopez family, she finished her education from the Assumption College, Newton College of the Sacred Heart in Boston, and Asian Institute of Management (Master's Degree in Development Management), and received her Doctorate Degrees (*Honoris Causa*) in Humanities and Humane Letters from the Ateneo de Naga University and Palawan State University, respectively;

WHEREAS, at a very young age of 18, she turned her back from a life full of comfort, luxury, and privilege, and chose to become an Ananda Marga yoga missionary and served in Portugal, India, and Africa, where she lived with the poorest of the poor in the slums, helped the victims of abuses, and devoted her time and energy to help uplift their lives;

WHEREAS, after 20 years of dedicated service to the cause of the people belonging to the marginalized society in other countries, she returned to the Philippines richer in experience and advocacies and immediately traversed the untraveled road of true public service to her fellow Filipinos, initiating projects and programs whose objectives are to provide for the needy, protect the children against abuses, preserve and protect the environment, lift communities out of poverty, and promote a meaningful change;

WHEREAS, she was not only known for her advocacy for children's right against abuses through her Bantay Bata 163 but also for her concern over children's right to education through her Educational Television (ETV) project which includes shows on Science (Sineskwela), Math (Math Tinik), Values (Hirayamanawari), History (Bayani), and English (Epol/Apple);

WHEREAS, as an environmentalist, among her notable accomplishments and projects, through the Bantay Kalikasan,

are rehabilitation of the La Mesa Watershed, development of the La Mesa Eco-Park, "Kapit Bisig Para sa Ilog Pasig" project which is aimed at rehabilitating Pasig River and nearby urban streams, and the "No To Mining in Palawan" campaign;

WHEREAS, as chairperson of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, she worked hand in hand with other government agencies to relocate informal settlers which paved the way for the rehabilitation of the tributaries of the Pasig River and the revival of the Pasig River ferry service of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA);

WHEREAS, known for being a true warrior and advocate for the protection and preservation of our environment, as Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, she unflinchingly defended and championed the cause of Mother Earth, strengthened the enforcement of the country's mining laws and spearheaded an unprecedented nationwide audit of all mining contracts which resulted in the cancellation of mining contracts and suspension of projects that failed to meet environmental standards;

WHEREAS, she was a recipient of numerous awards and recognitions which included the United Nations Grand Award for Excellence for the Bantay Bata 163 (1997), International Public Relations Award for Excellence for the Environment (1997), the Outstanding Manilan Award for the Environment (2009), the UNESCO Kalinga Award, and the prestigious Seacology Prize at Berkely, California (October 5, 2017) for showing "exceptional achievement in preserving island environments and culture", which award earned for her the rare distinction of being the First Filipino to win said prize;

WHEREAS, the untimely death of a distinguished leader, whose sincere commitment to uplift the plight of the underprivileged and to preserve and protect the environment for the generations to come is highly admirable and irrefutable, is a great loss to the nation but her remarkable contributions to the country and the Filipino people will definitely be cherished and remembered forever: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, To express, as it hereby expresses, its profound sympathy and sincere condolences on the death of Ms. Regina Paz "Gina" L. Lopez, former Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources and Chairperson of Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission.

Resolved, further, That a copy of this Resolution be furnished the bereaved family of the late Ms. Regina Paz "Gina" L. Lopez.

Adopted,



VICENTE C. SOTTO III

President of the Senate

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate on August 20, 2019.



MYRA MARIE D. VILLARICA

Secretary of the Senate