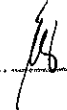


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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 998

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
COMMENDING ATTY. ANTONIO OPOSA FOR WINNING THE 2008
INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AWARD BY THE CENTER FOR
INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

WHEREAS, Atty. Antonio Oposa filed a case in 1999 to compel government agencies to clean up the bay before a regional trial court in Imus, Cavite and later elevated to the Supreme Court;

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court decided in favor of Oposa to order government agencies to immediately undertake moves to clean up Manila bay;

WHEREAS, the landmark ruling compelled twelve government agencies including the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Metro Manila Development Authority, and other local government units in the watershed of the Manila Bay to restore its waters into good quality fit for contact recreation;

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court decision also ordered the implementation of the Solid Waste Management Law, the installation of sewerage systems, and the removal of informal settlers along creeks and riverbanks adjoining Manila Bay;

WHEREAS, various news agencies last 15 April 2009 reported that Oposa's accomplishment proved worthy of the 2008 International Environmental Law Award by the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), an award which recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to solving environmental problems through international law and institutions;

WHEREAS, the CIEL in a statement said that "As an activist, working on local, national, and international levels, he (Oposa) has devoted his life to the protection of the Philippines' natural resources. His work included his decade-long fight with the government to clean up and rehabilitate Manila Bay, curb over-fishing in the Visayan Sea, fight the misappropriation of the country's forest resources, and establish the School of the Seas, a learning center for sustainable living";

WHEREAS, Oposa brings pride to our country as the first Asian to win the prestigious award, and should be commended as an exemplar for environmental advocates in the region;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved in the Philippine Senate to commend Atty. Antonio Oposa for winning the 2008 International Environmental Law Award by the Center for International Environmental Law.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO