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SENATE  
P.S. RES. NO. 660

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Introduced by SENATORS LACSON AND SOTTO

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**RESOLUTION**

**HONORING AND COMMENDING MAYOR VICTOR MA. REGIS "VICO" NUBLA SOTTO OF PASIG CITY FOR BEING RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION CHAMPIONS BY THE UNITED STATES' DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR PRIORITIZING ANTI-CORRUPTION AND TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVES NOT ONLY IN HIS ELECTION CAMPAIGN BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY WHILE IN OFFICE, THEREBY BECOMING THE STANDARD BEARER FOR THE NEW BREED OF POLITICIANS WHO STANDS AS THE BRIGHT BEACON OF THE LAND**

*Whereas*, Section 1, Article XI of the 1987 Constitution, states that "Public office is a public trust. Public officers and employees must at all times be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency, act with patriotism and justice, and lead modest lives". This is an overarching reminder that every instrumentality of government should exercise their official functions only in accordance with the principles of the Constitution which embodies the parameters of the people's trust. The notion of a public trust connotes accountability hence, the various mechanisms in the Constitution which are designed to exact accountability from public officers;<sup>1</sup>

*Whereas*, further, Article II, Section 27 of the Constitution states that: "*The State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption*";

*Whereas*, Victor Ma. Regis "Vico" Nubla Sotto, the incumbent mayor of Pasig City, has consistently and unremittingly displayed good governance and transparency in public service;

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<sup>1</sup> *Belgica v. Ochoa*, 721 Phil. 416, 556 (2013), citing Bernas, Joaquin G., S.J., *The 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines: A Commentary*, 2003 Ed., p. 1108.

**Whereas**, prior to his election as City Mayor, Vico Sotto served as the youngest city councilor of Pasig. His stint thereat paved the way to the enactment of a city ordinance concerning freedom of information that allows accessibility and transparency in public documents without the need for justification among city residents – the first of such law in Metro Manila;

**Whereas**, Mayor Sotto has been demonstrating his steadfast commitment to stopping corruption by eliminating any kickbacks in the awarding of city contracts, establishing a 24/7 public information and complaints hotline, formally involving civil society organizations in the city's budgeting and policymaking, and mandating that the value of all city government contracts be reduced by at least 10 percent – a measure intended to reduce bribery in the contract awarding process;

**Whereas**, Mayor Sotto's transformational brand of leadership exemplified by his various proactive and innovative measures amid the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) has been making rounds in social media and gaining distinction not only from the residents of Pasig but also in other localities;

**Whereas**, the Department of Health has recently announced that the City of Pasig, through the leadership of Mayor Vico Sotto, is among the cities being eyed for the pilot roll-out of vaccines being the first local government unit in the country to have an approved vaccination plan;

**Whereas**, Mayor Sotto joined the roster of the *People of the Year 2021* Awardees for spreading hope, taking action and serving others and earned the merit as one of the seven *The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM)* honorees of 2020;

**Whereas**, Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken launched the International Anti-corruption Champions Award to recognize individuals who have demonstrated leadership, courage, and impact in preventing, exposing, and combating corruption. This award advances U.S. support of anti-corruption leaders and innovators;

**Whereas**, Secretary Blinken, in his statement, said that the International Anti-corruption Champion Award aims to recognize individuals "who have worked tirelessly, often in the face of adversity, to defend transparency, combat corruption, and ensure accountability in their own countries";

**Whereas**, in choosing Mayor Vico Sotto as one of the recipients of said award, the U.S. State Department describes Mayor Sotto as a "standard-bearer for a new generation of Philippine politicians who prioritize anti-corruption and transparency initiatives in their election campaigns and in office. He has sought to solidify his reputation as a fresh voice with a new, more transparent approach to governance";

**Whereas**, considering that corruption is the social ill that sucks the lifeblood of our economy and distorts the principle of equal opportunity enshrined in a democratic order, our public servants should exemplify good governance, accountability, and integrity in the conduct of their duties;

**Whereas**, this recognition by the U.S. State Department bestowed upon Mayor Vico Sotto, the only Filipino public servant in the roster of honorees, meaningfully uplifts the morale and dignity of the Filipino people amid the challenging times of global pandemic; **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**,

**AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Senate of the Philippines to honor and commend Mayor Victor Ma. Regis "Vico" Nubla Sotto of Pasig City for being recognized as one of the International Anti-Corruption Champions by the United States' Department of State for prioritizing anti-corruption and transparency initiatives not only in his election campaign but more importantly while in office, thereby becoming the standard bearer for the new breed of politicians who stands as the bright beacon of the land;

**Adopted,**

  
VICENTE C. SOTTO III  
Senate President

  
PANFILO M. LACSON  
Senator