

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**
Third Regular Session

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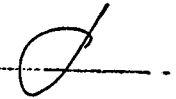
Office of the Secretary
Senate

SENATE

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P. S. RES. NO 760

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Introduced by **SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND
SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE ON THE DEATH OF
THE FIFTEENTH PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE
PHILIPPINES AND FORMER CONGRESSMAN AND SENATOR,
BENIGNO SIMEON COJUANGCO AQUINO III**

WHEREAS, former President Benigno Simeon C. Aquino III or PNoy as he was popularly known, son of the Philippine democracy icons, the late Senator Benigno Aquino Jr. and former President Corazon Aquino died on the 24th of June 2021 at the age of 61;

WHEREAS, like his mother, his leadership was transformational. After a landslide victory in 2010, he led the country with the battle cry Tuwid na Daan, which also became the governance philosophy of his administration, especially in the fight against widespread corruption, poverty, and patronage politics;

WHEREAS, as an economist, PNoy led the Philippine economy into a take-off in 2010 by carrying out critical reforms aimed at effecting a long-term impact on our economy and sustaining this growth during his six years in office. Thereby, under his administration, the Philippines was hailed as the fastest-growing economy in Asia;

WHEREAS, the impressive Philippine economic gains under PNoy's presidency boosted human resources development in the country, especially in promoting and providing quality, relevant, and accessible skills development. The entire Technical-Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector recognized him as a Tech-Voc champion in the country;

WHEREAS, President Aquino also pushed for relevant and significant education reforms to ensure that Filipino students will be globally competitive. He backed the passage of Republic Act 10533 or the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013, adding additional two years in Basic Education at par with the global standards. He also

issued Executive Order No. 83, s. 2012, which served as the basis of Republic Act No. 10968 or the Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF) Act;

WHEREAS, as the chief architect of Philippine foreign policy, his administration filed in 2013 an arbitration case against the nine-dash line of China and the Chinese claims on the West Philippine Sea, including portions of the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Philippines. The Permanent Court of Arbitration ruled in July 2016 in favor of the Philippines, invalidating the territorial claims of China;

WHEREAS, he also pushed for ending the insurgencies by planting the seeds of trust between his administration and the leadership of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), striking peace deals through a Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro, and accelerating the transition of MILF-controlled areas into productive, peaceful, and patriotic communities through projects like the Sajahatra Bangsamoro;

WHEREAS, President Aquino backed several landmark legislations like the Philippine Competition Act, Customs Modernization and Tariff Act, Sin Tax Reforms Act, and AFP Modernization Act, among many others;

WHEREAS, he pushed for key labor policies to protect our workers both at home and abroad. He advocated for the passage of the new charter of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), amendments on the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995, the PESO Law, the Kasambahay Law, and the institutionalization of the Jobstart Philippines program, among many others;

WHEREAS, PNoy served as an esteemed member of the Philippine Senate during the 14th Congress from 2007 to 2010, and a former Representative of the Second District of Tarlac during the 11th to the 13th Congress from 1998 to 2007;

WHEREAS, during his stint as a legislator, he promoted good governance and pushed for policies that demand accountability on the national budget;

WHEREAS, with PNoy's untimely demise, the whole nation lost a leader and a statesman who served as a source of inspiration and courage to his beloved motherland, compatriots, family, former colleagues, and friends, especially in the most trying times of the pandemic crisis;

WHEREAS, the Filipino people mourns with the passing away of a great leader, yet a simple man whose legacies will continue to bear the truth of great achievements, brave decisions, and moral leadership.

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 the 15th President of the Philippines and former Senator and Congressman, Benigno Simeon Cojuangco Aquino III;

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that a copy of this Resolution be given to the bereaved family of the late President Benigno Aquino III.

Adopted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Villanueva", written in a cursive style.

SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA