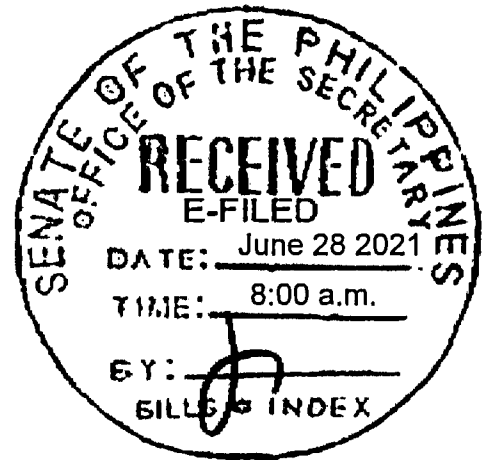


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Third Regular Session )



**SENATE**

**P. S. RES. NO. 761**

---

**Introduced by Senator VICENTE C. SOTTO III**

---

**RESOLUTION**

**EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE ON THE UNTIMELY DEMISE OF HONORABLE BENIGNO SIMEON "NOYNOY" COJUANGCO AQUINO III, 15<sup>TH</sup> PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES (2010-2016), FORMER SENATOR (2007-2010), AND FORMER MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (1998-2007)**

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable Benigno Simeon "Noynoy" Cojuangco Aquino III, 15<sup>th</sup> President of the Republic of the Philippines (2010-2016), former Senator (2007-2010), and former Member of the House of Representatives (1998-2007), passed away on 24 June 2021 at the age of 61;

**WHEREAS**, the third child of Former President Corazon "Cory" Cojuangco Aquino and Former Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., and brother of Maria Elena (Ballsy), Aurora Corazon (Pinky), Victoria Elisa (Viel), and Kristina Bernadette (Kris), he obtained his primary, high school, and college education from the Ateneo De Manila University, graduating with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, Major in Economics;

**WHEREAS**, imposing upon himself the promise to stay away from politics, he worked in different private entities such as the Philippine Business for Social Progress, Mondragon Industries Philippines, Inc., Nike Philippines, Inc., Intra-Strata Assurance Corporation, and the family-owned companies, the Best Security Agency Corporation and Hacienda

Luisita, but the persistent appeal of the people of the 2<sup>nd</sup> District of Tarlac Province made him break his promise; thus he ran and won as Representative of his district and serving as such for three consecutive terms from 1998 to 2007;

**WHEREAS**, as Member of the House of Representatives, he was elected as Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives on November 8, 2004, but relinquished the post on February 21, 2006 as he weighed party-loyalty more than the position he was holding;

**WHEREAS**, after his stint in the House of Representatives in 2007, he was elected as senator in the election held on May 15 of the same year, placing 6<sup>th</sup> among the 32 candidates for senator;

**WHEREAS**, as a Senator, he continued his anti-corruption advocacy by introducing several proposed legislations, such as the Budget Impoundment and Control Act (SB 3121), the Preservation of Public Infrastructures bill, which sought to raise standards in the construction of all public infrastructures and to penalize contractors of defective infrastructures (SB2035), and the bill Amending the Government Procurement Act (SB 2160);

**WHEREAS**, he also filed other reform-oriented bills, among which were bills that seek to reform the Philippine National Police; to increase the penalties for corporations and work establishments not compliant with minimum wage; to ban reappointment to the Judicial and Bar Council; to prevent reappointment and bypassing of the Commission on Appointments; to value real property based on international standards; and to give superior responsibility for senior military officers for their own subordinates;

**WHEREAS**, after the death of his beloved mother, Former President "Cory" Aquino, in August 2009, he heeded to public clamor and publicly announced his decision to participate in the 2010 Presidential Elections where he defeated other prominent and popular candidates;

**WHEREAS**, under his watch as President, the Philippines received several international recognitions, the most significant of which was the Philippines' gallant stand and victory against economic giant China when the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague ruled that China had no claim to the reef within Philippine territorial waters;

**WHEREAS**, in October 2012, his administration concluded a peace agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), where the government promised a significant amount of autonomy to a Muslim-majority region of southern Mindanao, to ultimately end four decades of deadly conflict;

**WHEREAS**, under his leadership, the Philippines recorded remarkable economic growth indicators that opened the doors to the country's economic recovery, most notable of which are the following: Philippine ranking in the Economic Freedom Index rose from 115 in 2010 to 70<sup>th</sup> place in 2015; Philippine ranking in the Global Competitiveness Index of World Economic Forum also rose from No. 85 in 2010 to No. 47 in 2015; Philippine ranking in the Global Enabling Trade Index of the World Economic Forum rose from rank 92 in 2010 to rank 64 in 2015; the GDP growth had increased to an annual average of 6.2 percent, the highest in the last 40 years; the inflation rate was reduced to an average of 1.4 percent at the end of 2015, thus strengthening consumer prices; the employment rate increased from 92.7 percent in 2010 to 94.2 percent in January 2016; the unemployment rate decreased to 5.8 percent, the lowest in the last several decades; and the country's investment on infrastructure was also increased from 1.8 percent of GDP in 2010 to about 5 percent of GDP in 2016;

**WHEREAS**, acknowledging the importance of infrastructure projects to help further boost the economy, he supported the funding of several key public-private partnership projects, like the Muntinlupa-Cavite Expressway, School infrastructure projects, Metro Manila Skyway Stage 3, and the automated fare collection system for Metro Rail Transit Line 3 and Light Rail Transit Lines 1 and 2;

**WHEREAS**, in other areas of national concern, particularly on the aspect of poverty alleviation and public health, his administration introduced several programs such as the "Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program," which benefited 7.7 million poor Filipinos, and the universal health care program which gave 93.45 million Filipinos access to quality health care;

**WHEREAS**, true to his commitment to fight corruption under the slogan "Kung walang corrupt, Walang mahirap", he fought corruption in

all branches of the government, thus changing the perception of other countries on the Philippines with regards to corruption;

**WHEREAS**, recognizing the value of education to economic progress, he resolved problems surrounding the education sector, thus classroom shortage was reduced to 66,800 as 89,720 classrooms were constructed from 2010 to March 2016, with the corresponding hiring of 170,000 additional teachers, and technical assistance were provided to more than 10 million youths who were properly equipped with training skills and certification to join the local and foreign workforce or put up their own business;

**WHEREAS**, he also supported the modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines by allotting approximately P60 billion for military capability upgrading projects under the AFP Modernization and Capability Upgrade program, or Republic Act 10349, enacted in December 2012;

**WHEREAS**, among the noteworthy legislations that were enacted into law during his administration are the Sin Tax Reform Law, Philippine Competition Act, Enhanced Basic Education Act, otherwise known as K-12 Program, Domestic Workers Act or *Batas Kasambahay*, Cybercrime Prevention Act, Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act, and the Tax Incentives Management and Transparency Act (TIMTA);

**WHEREAS**, his administration also introduced solutions and programs to address the disastrous effects of natural calamities and remedy traffic congestion, such as the improvement of weather forecasting, the implementation of national greening program, the installation of infrastructures projects that would address flooding in different parts of the country, the acquisition of 48 new coaches for MRT-3, and the launching of several LRT extension and skyway projects;

**WHEREAS**, for his exemplary performance as President, he received recognitions from different countries, namely: Japan: Grand Cordon of the Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum (June 2, 2015); Sovereign Military Order of Malta: Collar of the Knightly Order pro merito Melitensi (March 4, 2015); Indonesia: Star of the Republic of Indonesia, First Class (October 10, 2014); Kuwait: Collar of the Order of Mubarak the Great (March 23, 2012); and United States: City Council Resolution on welcoming the President to Chicago presented by Mayor Rahm Emanuel (May 6, 2015);

**WHEREAS**, the untimely death of a true-blue Atenean who had lived his life with honesty, integrity, and simplicity so that others may simply live is a great loss not only to his family but to the Filipino nation as well, particularly those whose lives he had touched: Now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED BY THE SENATE**, To express, as it hereby expresses, its profound sympathy and sincere condolences on the untimely demise of Honorable Benigno Simeon "Noynoy" Cojuangco Aquino III, 15<sup>th</sup> President of the Republic of the Philippines (2010-2016), former Senator (2007-2010), and former Member of the House of Representatives (1998-2007).

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, That a copy of this Resolution be furnished to the bereaved family of the late President Benigno Simeon "Noynoy" Cojuangco Aquino III.

Adopted,

  
**VICENTE C. SOTTO III**