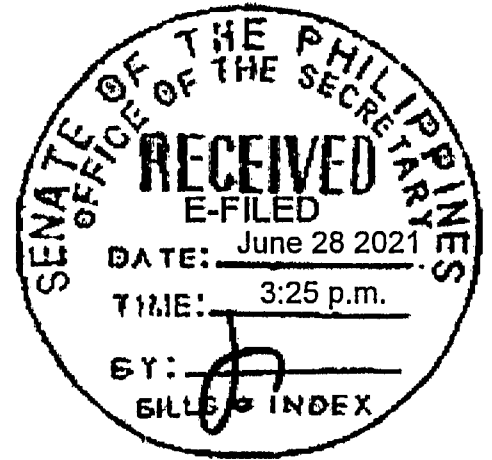


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Third Regular Session* )



SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 764

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Introduced by SENATOR LEILA M. DE LIMA

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**RESOLUTION**  
**EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE**  
**CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE**  
**DEATH OF FORMER PRESIDENT AND SENATOR, THE HONORABLE**  
**BENIGNO “NOYNOY” S. AQUINO III**

1           WHEREAS, Benigno “Noynoy” S. Aquino III, a patriot and statesman, who was  
2 also a former member of the House of Representatives and the Philippine Senate and  
3 an outstanding public servant who served as the 15<sup>th</sup> President of the Republic of the  
4 Philippines, passed away on 24 June 2021, at the age of 61;

5           WHEREAS, President Noynoy Aquino was born on 8 February 1960 in Manila  
6 to prominent parents: Former Senator and opposition leader to President Ferdinand  
7 Marcos – Benigno Aquino Jr., and Former President and icon of Philippine  
8 democracy, Corazon Aquino. The young Aquino witnessed first-hand the struggle of  
9 his parents to topple a dictatorship that tormented the country and led to the  
10 assassination of his father and ended with the 1986 People Power Revolution;

11           WHEREAS, President Noynoy Aquino, an economist by training and a public  
12 official by profession, served in both the Legislative and Executive branches of the  
13 Philippine Government. He served three terms as Congressman of the Second District  
14 of Tarlac, and as Deputy Speaker from November 2004 until February 2006. He also  
15 served as a member of the Philippine Senate during the 14<sup>th</sup> Congress from 30 June  
16 2007 until 29 June 2010 where he advocated and pushed for various legislations  
17 including bills on local government empowerment, and upholding justice and human  
18 rights;

1           WHEREAS, upon his election in 2016 as the 15<sup>th</sup> president of the country,  
2 President Noynoy Aquino, also known as PNoy, did not shy away from the greatest  
3 challenges that beset our country;

4           WHEREAS, President Noynoy Aquino made fighting corruption the  
5 centerpiece of his administration calling his vision “*Daang Matuwid*”. He oversaw the  
6 transition from having a government that institutionalized corrupt practices, to one  
7 that provides public service founded on the principles of transparency, accountability,  
8 and integrity; from being home to a citizenry clamoring for change, to nurturing a  
9 nation empowered and actively working together for greater opportunities for  
10 inclusive growth. The bedrock of this transformation likewise remains as the driving  
11 force behind the Aquino administration’s reform agenda: “*Kung walang corrupt,*  
12 *walang mahirap*”;

13           WHEREAS, during his six-year term as President, he transformed the country  
14 from being the “Sick Man of Asia” to “Asia’s Rising Tiger”<sup>1</sup>, leaving the next  
15 administration with strong economic fundamentals and a crisis-proof,<sup>2</sup> thriving, and  
16 vibrant economy;

17           WHEREAS, the serious anti-corruption drive of his administration translated  
18 into unprecedented confidence and improvement in the country’s image on the world  
19 stage. The Philippines’ ranking in the World Economic Forum’s Global  
20 Competitiveness Report rose to 47<sup>th</sup> out of 140 economies in 2015 from 87<sup>th</sup> among  
21 133 before Aquino took office in 2010. The report would be testament that corruption,  
22 previously the top problem, dropped to third behind an inefficient government  
23 bureaucracy and inadequate supply of infrastructure. In Transparency International’s  
24 Corruption Perception Index, a widely used yardstick, the Philippines rose to 85<sup>th</sup> out  
25 of 175 countries in 2014 from 134<sup>th</sup> place out of 178 in 2010<sup>3</sup>;

26           WHEREAS, President Noynoy Aquino expanded the Pantawid Pamilyang  
27 Pilipino Program which lifted the lives of 7.7 million Filipinos out of poverty<sup>4</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> Philippine Star (6 February 2013) *Philippines is Asia’s rising tiger – World Bank*. Accessed last 24 June 2021 from: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2013/02/06/905371/philippines-asias-rising-tiger-world-bank>

<sup>2</sup> De Vera, B. (8 April 2016) *Aquino to leave behind crisis-proof economy, says Capital Economics*. Accessed last 24 June 2021 from: <https://business.inquirer.net/209294/aquino-to-leave-behind-crisis-proof-economy-says-capital-economics>

<sup>3</sup> Associated Press (14 November 2015) *Aquino’s corruption fight marks modest progress –experts*. Accessed last 24 June 2021 from: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/739743/aquinos-corruption-fight-marks-modest-progress-experts>

<sup>4</sup> Palace official sums up accomplishments of Aquino government in six years (26 June 2016). Retrieved from: <https://pcoo.gov.ph/palace-official-sums-up-accomplishments-of-aquino-government-in-six-years/>

1           WHEREAS, in terms of infrastructures, the number of classrooms doubled  
2 during his administration. Many of the projects continued and completed during the  
3 present administration were also set in motion under the Aquino administration,  
4 including the Skyway Stage 3, and LRT-1 and LRT-2 stations;

5           WHEREAS, President Noynoy Aquino courageously fought for our country's  
6 sovereignty and stood firmly against the mighty China. Going by the mantra "Right is  
7 might", he never said that we could do nothing to protect our people's interests against  
8 one of the superpowers in international geopolitics;

9           WHEREAS, one of the momentous achievements of the Aquino administration  
10 was when it defended the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity through  
11 diplomacy, believing that adherence to international law will result not only in regional  
12 stability but also in more lasting resolutions to maritime disputes. On 22 January  
13 2013, the Aquino government initiated arbitral proceedings under the United Nations  
14 Convention on the Law of the Sea to establish the Philippines' sovereign rights and  
15 jurisdiction over its maritime entitlements in the West Philippine Sea. This executive  
16 action led to the Arbitral Tribunal's monumental decision that the Philippines has  
17 exclusive sovereign rights over the West Philippine Sea, and declared China's "nine-  
18 dash line" as invalid<sup>5</sup>;

19           WHEREAS, to this day, the international community cites this decision not only  
20 in support of our claims over the West Philippine Sea, but also to undermine China's  
21 hegemony over the waters in the Asian region;

22           WHEREAS, President Noynoy Aquino not only appointed based on merit, he  
23 also shattered the glass-ceiling for women under his administration. Women were  
24 appointed in key positions such as Chief Justice Ma. Lourdes Sereno, Ombudsman  
25 Conchita Carpio-Morales, Secretary of Social Welfare and Development Dinky  
26 Soliman, Presidential Adviser on Peace Process Ging Deles, Commissioner of the  
27 Bureau of Internal Revenue Kim Henares, Secretary of Health Dr. Janette Garin,  
28 Secretary of Labor and Employment Rosalinda Baldoz, Secretary of the Presidential  
29 Management Staff Julia Abad, Commission on Higher Education Chairperson Patricia

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<sup>5</sup> Santos, M. (12 July 2016) PH wins arbitration case over South China Sea. Accessed last 24 June 2021 from:  
<https://globalnation.inquirer.net/140358/philippines-arbitration-decision-maritime-dispute-south-china-sea-arbitral-tribunal-unclos-itlos>

1 Licuanan, Mindanao Development Authority Chairperson Luwalhati Antonino, and  
2 this humble representation as Secretary of Justice;

3 WHEREAS, he lived a life as far away from traditional politics as he could. He  
4 never appointed his family to government posts. He never sought to establish a  
5 dynasty of his own. He did not seek self-aggrandizement nor clung to power after his  
6 presidency. When his watch ended, he quietly returned to private life as his mother,  
7 President Corazon Aquino, did when her term expired;

8 WHEREAS, the long list of the gains of his dedicated administration and  
9 unparalleled leadership impacts the country to this very date. His selfless service and  
10 love for every Filipino deserve more than emulation. Through his exemplary and moral  
11 leadership, he was admired not only by Filipinos but by various leaders all over the  
12 world. President Noynoy Aquino has lived a fulfilled and selfless life that serves as  
13 inspiration to all and epitomizes the best qualities of the Filipino nation – he exuded  
14 decency, honor, respect, integrity and morality. President Noynoy Aquino was indeed  
15 a beloved leader and true hero of democracy;

16 WHEREAS, as the Filipino nation mourns his passing, our respect, love and  
17 admiration would evince that the greatest of leaders do not need to demand these for  
18 they will reap what they sow. For all his contributions to society, for the times he chose  
19 to cleanse the nation of corruption and illegal practices even if it cost political allies –  
20 we will forever be truly grateful;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby  
22 resolved, to express the profound sympathy and sincere condolences of the Senate of  
23 the Philippines on the death of Former President and Senator, the Honorable Benigno  
24 “Noynoy” S. Aquino III.

Adopted,

  
LEILA M. DE LIMA