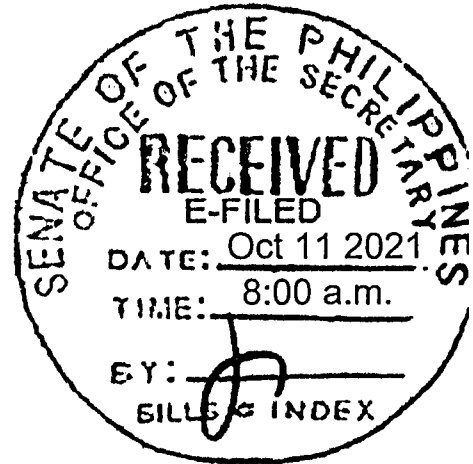


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. 926



Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**

RESOLUTION

VENERATING THE VIRTUES, LEGACY, AND LIFE OF THE HONORABLE JOSE LUIS MARTIN "CHITO" C. GASCON, SEVENTH (7TH) CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

WHEREAS, on 09 October 2021, the Honorable Jose Luis Martin "Chito" C. Gascon, died of COVID-19 at the age of fifty-seven (57);

WHEREAS, the Hon. Chito Gascon built an unparalleled legacy as an exceptional public servant who was virtuous, unwavering, and exuded a rare kind of warmth, sincerity, humility, energy, and contagious kindness that will be sorely missed;

WHEREAS, the Senate venerates the Hon. Chito Gascon's wholehearted leadership as the Seventh (7th) Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights ("CHR"), a staunch defender of Democracy, an inspirational human rights activist, as a patient mentor, as a compassionate community organizer, as a principled lawyer, a brave student leader, a loving father, a faithful husband, a dutiful son, and a conscientious citizen of the Republic of the Philippines which - in both words and deeds, as a nation and by its people, particularly the powerless, oppressed, and the marginalized - the Hon. Chito Gascon so passionately, dearly, and clearly loved;

WHEREAS, the Hon. Chito Gascon always extended his helping hand to all, in his thirty (30) years of service to the Filipino people and often against powerful, malicious, and deceitful State and non-State actors, and which began as early as his days as a University of the Philippines Student Council Chairperson, who worked with the heroic critical mass of freedom-loving Filipinos and Filipinas who liberated the Philippines during the 1986 People Power Revolution, which at the time was globally unprecedented for defeating a violent dictatorship through peaceful protests;

WHEREAS, the Hon. Chito Gascon served as the youngest delegate to the 1986 Constitutional Convention thereby laying the bedrock for the Filipino people to have equal opportunities in continuing the nation's historical struggle for social justice, lasting peace and order, human dignity, economic security, and a dynamic democracy;

WHEREAS, the Hon. Chito Gascon, in his brief service as legislator in the Eight (8th) Congress, passed meaningful legislation including the creation of the Sangguniang Kabataan, and Republic Act No. 7610 also known as the "Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act";

WHEREAS, human rights victims found a courageous advocate in the Hon. Chito Gascon, through his individual person and by his unyielding leadership of the CHR, becoming an assuring ally of the abused, an eloquent representative of the unheard, and a fierce fighter for the disenfranchised;

WHEREAS, the Hon. Chito Gascon's contributions to the betterment of Filipino society is acclaimed both domestically and internationally, including the distinct honor of being the first (1st) Filipino recipient of both the Democracy and Development Fellowship at Stanford University's Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law as well as the Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellowship at the International Forum for Democratic Studies of the National Endowment for Democracy;

WHEREAS, the Hon. Chito Gascon's prudence, temperance, and virtues proved as vital to the Philippine movement for the advancement of human rights amidst the volatility of Philippine politics, kept hope alive for many society leaders, varied communities, and civil society organizations, and to the institution of lasting social reforms; **AND**

WHEREAS, the Senate deeply prays for the eternal repose of Hon. Chito Gascon's soul, extends its sincerest sympathies to his family and loved ones, and offers the most profound condolences to the Filipino people who lost a tireless, honest public servant.

NOW, THEREFORE, RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Senate to venerate the aspirational virtues, legacy, and life of the Honorable Jose Luis Martin "Chito" C. Gascon, Seventh (7th) Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights.

Adopted,


RICHARD J. GORDON
Senator