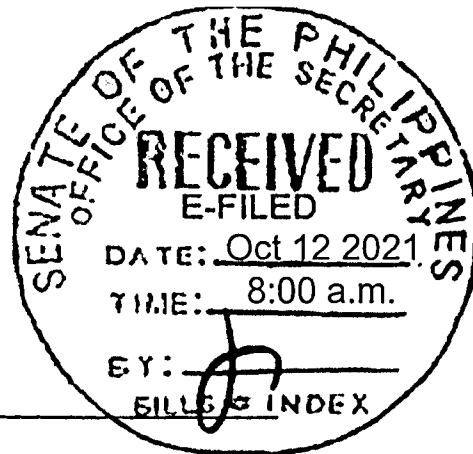


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Third Regular Session

SENATE

P.S.R. No. 929



INTRODUCED BY SENATORS RISA HONTIVEROS, FRANKLIN M. DRILON,
FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN, and LEILA M. DE LIMA

RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF THE PHILIPPINE SENATE ON THE DEATH OF COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS CHAIRPERSON JOSE LUIS MARTIN "CHITO" GASCON AND RECOGNIZING HIS LEGACY IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

WHEREAS, on Saturday, October 9, his family announced that Commission on Human Rights (CHR) Chair Jose Luis Martin "Chito" Gascon, one of the country's staunchest human rights defenders and social reformers passed away at age 57 from COVID-19;

WHEREAS, he started almost four decades of work in human rights as a student activist and as student council chairperson of the University of the Philippines Diliman in 1985, where he earned both his undergraduate degree in Philosophy and his Bachelor of Laws;

WHEREAS, after the 1986 People Power Revolution, he served as the youngest member of the Constitutional Commission that drafted the 1987 Constitution following the country's return to democratization;

WHEREAS, he was a member of the 8th Philippine Congress, and as legislator introduced legislation on important social reforms and social justice measures;

WHEREAS, since he was appointed in 2015 by the late former President Benigno Aquino III as Chairperson of the CHR, Chair Chito had zealously led investigations of violations of human rights, whether perpetrated by State or non-state actors and continued the legacy of standing for truth and democracy;

WHEREAS, following the election of President Rodrigo Duterte, Chair Chito was a critical, if sometimes solitary voice, against the excesses of the Duterte administration, particularly its War on Drugs, its red-tagging operations, and its punitive and iron-fisted pandemic management strategies;


WHEREAS, despite the difficulties in conducting human rights investigations amidst an environment hostile to human rights and despite the attacks levelled against both the CHR and himself, Chair Chito soldiered on zealously and cheerfully – making the CHR both a platform and a safe space for fellow advocates doing human rights work;

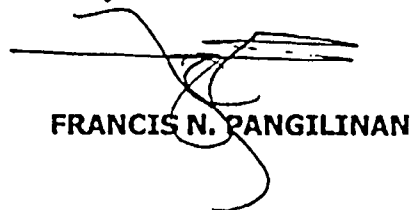
WHEREAS, Chair Chito --- whose formation as a student activist began during the waning days of Martial Law and who once sat as Board member of the Human Rights Victims Claims Board -- also ensured that the CHR is a bastion for truth -telling against historical revisionism and fought attempts to whitewash the excesses of the dictatorship;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Philippines express its profound sympathy and condolences to the family of the late Chairperson Jose Luis Martin "Chito" Gascon and recognize his legacy in the field of human rights and democracy.

Adopted,


RISA HONTIVEROS


FRANKLIN M. DRILON


FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN


LEILA M. DE LIMA