



NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

22 AUG -1 A11 :03

RECEIVED BY: _____

SENATE

P. S. RES. NO. 73

Introduced by Senator JOEL VILLANUEVA

RESOLUTION
EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE
CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE ON THE DEATH OF THE
TWELFTH PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES,
HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT FIDEL VALDEZ RAMOS

WHEREAS, on July 31, 2022, former President Fidel V. Ramos passed away at the age of ninety-four (94);

WHEREAS, President Ramos was born on March 18, 1928, in Lingayen and grew up in Asingan, both located in Pangasinan. In 1950, he graduated from the United States Military Academy in West Point; and a year after, from the University of Illinois, where he obtained a Master of Science Degree in Civil Engineering;¹

WHEREAS, during the Vietnam War, President Ramos was part of the Philippine Civic Action Group as a Chief of Staff. He later on served as the Presidential Assistant on Military Affairs in 1968, and assumed command of the 3rd Infantry Brigade of the Philippine Army in 1970.² He received several military awards, including the Philippine Legion of Honor (1988 and 1991), the Distinguished Conduct Star (1991), the Distinguished Service Star (1966, 1967, 1981), the Philippine Military Merit Medal (1952), and the U.S. Military Academy Distinguished Graduate Award and Legion of Merit (1990);³

WHEREAS, President Ramos was appointed by former President Corazon Aquino as the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines from 1986 to 1988, and later as Secretary of the Department of National Defense from 1988 to 1991;

¹ West Point Association of Graduates, 2000 Distinguished Graduate Award, President Fidel V. Ramos '50, accessible at <https://www.westpointaog.org/page.aspx?pid=557> (last accessed July 31, 2022).

² *Id.*

³ <https://maritimereview.ph/contributors/>.

WHEREAS, in 1992, President Ramos was elected as the 12th President of the Republic of the Philippines. As the Head of State, President Ramos spearheaded the economic recovery of the country, and implemented a comprehensive Social Reform Agenda that aimed to address and implement effective interventions in education, health, community development, access to credit and livelihood opportunities, job generation, and public safety;

WHEREAS, in line with his administration's Social Reform Agenda, President Ramos backed numerous social legislations, such as the Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act,⁴ Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act,⁵ Anti-Squatting Law Repeal Act of 1997,⁶ and the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997,⁷ among others;

WHEREAS, upon assuming the Presidency in 1992, the power crisis was at its peak, with daily brownouts lasting 10-12 hours. In view of the urgency of the situation, he pushed for the immediate passage of the Electric Power Crisis Act of 1993, which gave him emergency powers to negotiate Independent Power Producer (IPP) contracts and expedite government's approval processes. He also signed the Build-Operate-Transfer Law of 1994, which increased the scope of private sector participation and saw a surge in the construction of power stations, leading to the signing of around 22 agreements with private sector IPPs from 1991 to 1993, amounting to 2.65 GW of capacity;⁸

WHEREAS, President Ramos was also a champion of education reforms. During his time, the Higher Education Act of 1994⁹ was passed into law, as part of a broad agenda of reforms in the education sector into three governing bodies, with the Commission on Higher Education as in-charge of matters related to tertiary education;

WHEREAS, his administration also solidified the place of technical-vocational education in the Philippine education system, thru the enactment of the Dual Training System Act of 1994,¹⁰ which combines in-school and in-plant process of education and training. This was followed by the creation of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA),¹¹ to set direction, promulgate relevant standards, and implement programs geared towards a quality-assured and inclusive technical education and skills development and certification system;

WHEREAS, President Ramos pursued an ambitious development plan dubbed as "Philippines 2000," wherein several industries critical to economic development were privatized, such as electricity, communications, banking, domestic shipping and oil. The plan also reformed the country's taxation system, leading to the lowering of the value of external debt to manageable levels through debt restructuring and fiscal

⁴ Republic Act No. 8425.

⁵ Republic Act No. 8371.

⁶ Republic Act No. 8368.

⁷ Republic Act No. 8435.

⁸ Asian Development Bank, Philippines Energy Sector Assessment, Strategy, and Roadmap, October 2018, p. 14, accessible at <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/463306/philippines-energy-assessment-strategy-road-map.pdf> (last accessed August 1, 2022).

⁹ Republic Act No. 7722.

¹⁰ Republic Act No. 7686.

¹¹ Republic Act No. 7796.

management. By 1996, the Gross National Product (or Gross National Income) was growing at a rate of 7.2% while the Gross Domestic Product at 5.2%, while the annual inflation rate dropped to 5.9% from 9.1% in 1995;¹²

WHEREAS, President Ramos was also a key figure in the peace accord between the government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), for which he became a recipient of the 1997 Felix Houphouet-Boigny Peace Prize, jointly with Governor Nur Misuari, the first Asian to be awarded of such award;¹³

WHEREAS, his statement at the Social Reform Summit delivered on September 27, 1994 at the Philippine International Convention Center, still holds true today and serves as a reminder for all public servants:

“In the legislature, let us seize the moment to craft reforms that will reflect and respond to the needs of our people. In the executive, let us seize the moment to improve the delivery of government services. In local governments, let us recognize that it is in your communities where the anti-poverty war begins-and where it must be won.

x x x

Working together, at this time of new hope in this country, we can win this struggle. So let it be our pledge, here and now – not to relent and not to lay down our weapons, until this fight against poverty is won.”¹⁴

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 twelfth (12th) President of the Philippines, Fidel Valdez Ramos;

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that a copy of this Resolution be given to the bereaved family of the late President Fidel Valdez Ramos.

Adopted,


SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

¹² Philippines – Overview of Economy, Nations Encyclopedia, accessible at <https://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/economies/Asia-and-the-Pacific/Philippines-OVERVIEW-OF-ECONOMY.html> (last accessed August 1, 2022).

¹³ Official Gazette, Speech of President Ramos on the Acceptance of the 1997 Felix Houphouet-Boigny Peace Prize jointly with Governor Nur Misuari, June 17, 1998, accessible at <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/1998/06/17/speech-of-president-ramos-on-the-acceptance-of-the-1997-felix-houphouet-boigny-peace-prize-jointly-with-governor-nur-misuari-june-17-1998/> (last accessed July 31, 2022).

¹⁴ Official Gazette, Statement of President Fidel V. Ramos, September 27, 1994, <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/1994/09/27/statement-president-fidel-v-ramos-at-the-social-reform-summit/> (last accessed July 31, 2022).