

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

First Regular Session

SENATE

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P.S. Res. No. <u>137</u>

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RECEIVED BY

Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE ON THE DEATH OF "ASIA'S SPRINT QUEEN", LYDIA DE VEGAMERCADO

WHEREAS, Lydia "Diay" de Vega-Mercado, once heralded as Asia's fastest woman and known as "Asia's Sprint Queen", passed away on August 10, 2022 at the age of 57 after a 4-year battle with the biggest race of her life;

WHEREAS, one of the most decorated athletes in the country's history, she won a total of 24 medals during her entire athletic career, amassing 15 gold medals, 6 silver medals, and 3 bronze medals across multiple international competitions, including nine golds from the Southeast Asian (SEA) Games alone;

WHEREAS, a product of the Gintong Alay Track & Field program in 1979, the Bulakeña sports icon first made an impact at the 1981 Southeast Asian (SEA) Games held in Manila, where she won gold medals in the 200-meter and 400-meter events that surpassed the records set at the Asian Games;

WHEREAS, in the 1982 Asian Games held in New Delhi, she won the gold medal in the 100-meter dash and duplicated the feat in the 1986 Asian Games in Seoul where she clocked 11.53 seconds;

WHEREAS, in the 1983 and 1987 Asian Athletics Championships, the athletic prowess of the Filipina sprinter was again put to test, winning gold medals in both the 100 and 200 meters:

WHEREAS, for her exemplary performances in track and field events, she qualified to participate and represent the Philippines in the 1984 and 1988 Summer Olympic Games;

WHEREAS, after winning her last two SEA Games medals in 1993, she retired at the age of 30 at the 1994 Manila-Fujian Games, where she won the 100-meter dash;

WHEREAS, in 2015, she served as Councilor of her hometown in Meycauayan, Bulacan and as liaison officer of the Alliance of Coaches and Athletes of the Philippines with the Philippine Sports Commission;

WHEREAS, the sacrifices and dedication to the sport she loved the most for the honor and glory of the country is highly commendable, worthy of the respect, admiration, and emulation of the Filipino people, particularly the young athletes of this generation: 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 "Asia's Sprint Queen", Lydia de Vega-Mercado

Adopted,

MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI