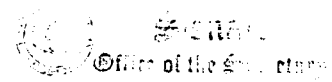


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



23 AUG 23 P12:26

SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. 752

RECEIVED BY

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

RESOLUTION
EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES OF THE
SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE DEATH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
MIGRANT WORKERS (DMW) SECRETARY SUSAN "TOOTS" OPLE

WHEREAS, on 22 August 2023, the Secretary of the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), Susan "Toots" Ople, sorrowfully passed away at the age of 61 after her bout with cancer;

WHEREAS, Sec. Ople, who was born on 09 February 1962, is the daughter of Blas F. Ople, a former Secretary of Labor of then President Ferdinand E. Marcos and former Secretary of Foreign Affairs during the Arroyo Administration;

WHEREAS, Sec. Ople graduated from the University of Santo Tomas with the course of AB Communication in 1984. Thereafter, Sec. Ople took up her Master's Degree in Public Administration at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University in 1999 and received the Josephine Vernon Award for Excellence in Communication;

WHEREAS, Sec. Ople did not relent in continuing her father's legacy in championing the rights of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs). Sec. Ople further crafted her own path by becoming the voice of OFWs. In 2004, a year after her father died, she founded the Blas F. Ople Policy Center and Training Institute (Ople Center), a non-government organization centered on OFW affairs and focused on helping government agencies in combatting human trafficking, among others;

WHEREAS, the vision of the Ople Center is for every OFW family to be happy, to have a better quality of life, and have more opportunities at home;

WHEREAS, in May 2022, Sec. Ople served as the first Secretary of the newly created Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) and was confirmed by the Commission on Appointments on 29 November 2022;

WHEREAS, Sec. Ople started pushing for reforms including ridding corruption among the ranks of DMW who were absorbed from the Philippine Overseas

Employment Administration (POEA). Sec. Ople also opened a help desk, made the controversial Overseas Employment Certificate digital and free, and, recently, created the DMW mobile app which is a digital solution designed for OFWs, among others;

WHEREAS, it cannot be denied that Sec. Ople was a consummate champion of over 10 million Filipino migrant workers which is one of the largest diaspora populations in the world;

WHEREAS, former Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Undersecretary Rafael Seguis said, "Her deep concern and compassion for migrant workers is amazing. *Nasa isip niya* how to help OFWs in distress. Xxx I lost a good friend who is hardworking, dedicated and loyal";

WHEREAS, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. mourned the demise of Sec. Ople and described her as a friend and excellent public servant, stating: "With the passing of Toots Ople, I have lost a dear friend and much valued friend. The Philippines now also mourns a great champion for the labour movement in the Philippines. She dedicated her life, in every waking moment, to the welfare of labourers in general and migrant workers in particular. She was tireless in her pursuit to always support and find protection for our workers";

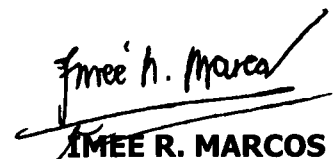
WHEREAS, just recently, the two (2) brothers of Sec. Ople, Blas Ople Jr. and Felix "Toti" Ople, also passed away, in a span of five (5) days, in July 2023 due to lung cancer;

WHEREAS, the whole nation mourns the passing of a dedicated public servant and a staunch advocate of the OFWs who has tirelessly fought for their rights and welfare;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to express the profound sympathy and condolences of the Senate of the Philippines on the death of the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) Secretary Susan "Toots" Ople.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that a copy of this Resolution be furnished to the bereaved family of Secretary Susan "Toots" Ople.

Adopted,


IMEE R. MARCOS