Republic of the Philippines Congress of the Philippines Senate

Pasay City

Fighteenth Congress

Third Regular Session

## **RESOLUTION NO. 147**

RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE, THE HONORABLE FRANKLIN M. DRILON, FOR HIS INVALUABLE AND EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTIONS DURING THE EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, the Honorable Senator Franklin M. Drilon has performed his role as Minority Leader during the  $18^{th}$  Congress with clear conviction, integrity, utmost dedication and distinction;

WHEREAS, a veteran and experienced lawmaker with enormous accomplishments and impeccable record in public service, he unselfishly and humbly shared his knowledge and expertise in legislative process during floor deliberations and debates;

WHEREAS, a dedicated and hardworking public servant, he fearlessly and constructively articulated his views and opinions on urgent matters of national concern and worked in harmony with his fellow senators belonging to the majority but without compromising the position of the minority in the passage of important measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic, to wit: Republic Act (RA) No. 11469 or the "Bayanihan to Heal As One Act"; RA No. 11494, which is also known as the "Bayanihan to Recover As One Act"; RA No. 11519, which extends the availability of appropriations under RA No. 11494; RA No. 11525, which establishes the COVID-19 Vaccination Program; and RA No. 11640, which extends the availability of the 2021 national budget until December 31, 2022;

WHEREAS, despite the COVID-19 outbreak and lockdown, he still registered a perfect attendance in the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress and actively participated during the public hearings and plenary sessions via teleconference on debates and discussions on matters relating to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, including the investigation on the anomalous transactions that involved executives of the Pharmally Pharmaceutical Corp. and high ranking government officials, and the General Appropriations Acts for the year 2020, 2021 and 2022;

WHEREAS, the country's economic managers have lauded him for his major contributions and outstanding work in shepherding the passage of the three economic reform laws that will hasten the country's economic recovery from the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, namely: RA No. 11595, which amends the "Retail Trade Liberalization Act"; RA No. 11647, which amends the "Foreign Investment Act"; and RA No. 11659, which amends the "Public Service Act";

WHEREAS, fully concerned with the threat of the soaring oil and gas prices in the world market to the country's economy, he called for the suspension of the collection of fuel excise taxes to cushion the financial impact of such hikes in the lives of the ordinary Filipinos; WHEREAS, known for his very meticulous and incisive interpellations, he is admittedly one of the most feared interpellators during floor deliberations of a proposed measure but, in the end, his detailed and important examinations have been proven helpful in the enactment of well-crafted pieces of legislation;

WHEREAS, a fierce and intellectual debater, he authored measures which seek to prohibit political dynasties, strengthen the political party system, discourage political turncoatism, and criminalize red tagging, along with other proposed pieces of legislation that would reinforce the government arsenal of anticorruption measures;

WHEREAS, under the leadership of a tireless and righteous leader with an untainted devotion to his duties, the Minority Group has been constructively critical to the Majority Group but was never a stumbling block to a productive Senate, thus helping the institution maintain its independence and true role as the last bastion of democracy in the country;

WHEREAS, for his invaluable and exemplary contributions during the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Philippines, he truly deserves the commendation of this august Chamber and the gratitude of the Filipino people: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, To commend, as it hereby commends, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Honorable Franklin M. Drilon, for his invaluable and exemplary contributions during the Eighteenth Congress of the Philippines.

Adopted,

VICENTE C. SOTTO III President of the Senate

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate on June 1, 2022.

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MYRA MARIE D. VILLARICA Secretary of the Senate

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