

P. S. Res. Nos. 747, 748, 749,
751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, and
757

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Senate

Manila City

Nineteenth Congress

Second Regular Session



RESOLUTION NO. 83

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE DEMISE OF MARIA SUSANA "TOOTS" VASQUEZ OPLE, HONORING HER DEDICATION AS A LIFELONG ADVOCATE OF THE LABOR SECTOR AND A CHAMPION OF THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF FILIPINO MIGRANT WORKERS

WHEREAS, on 22 August 2023, Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) Secretary Maria Susana Vasquez Ople passed away at 61 years old;

WHEREAS, Secretary Maria Susana Vasquez Ople, or "Toots" as she was fondly called, was born on 9 February

1962. She was the youngest of seven children of the late former Senate President, former Labor Secretary/Minister, and former Foreign Affairs Secretary, Blas F. Ople and public grade school teacher Susana Vasquez;

WHEREAS, Sec. Toots Ople finished her degree in Bachelor of Arts in Communication from the University of Santo Tomas in 1984 and obtained her Master in Public Administration degree from Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Massachusetts, USA in 1999;

WHEREAS, Sec. Toots Ople also served as one of the Undersecretaries of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) during the term of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. She has long been a staunch advocate of labor rights for overseas Filipino workers (OFW);

WHEREAS, Sec. Toots Ople founded the Blas F. Ople Policy Center and Training Institute (Ople Center), a non-profit organization named in honor of her late father, that assists OFWs who became victims of exploitation, abuse, discrimination and/or human trafficking, and represented the migrant workers sector through extensive partnerships with various government bodies and organizations, including the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT), Coalition Against Trafficking of OFWs (CAT-OFWs), and many others;

WHEREAS, Sec. Toots Ople also championed OFW rights by co-anchoring the popular daily radio show "Bantay OFW" at DZXL's Tatak RMN network, as well as "Global Pinoy" at DWIZ 882 AM. She brought to the attention of the public the plight of our kababayans, and painstakingly took action to address their woes;

WHEREAS, Sec. Toots Ople's unparalleled zeal in pushing for the protection of the rights of migrant workers catapulted her to be the first Filipino to be a part of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking;

WHEREAS, Sec. Toots Ople was conferred by the Government of the United States of America the Global Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Hero Award for 2013 as it recognized individuals who devoted their lives in preventing

trafficking, protecting victims, and prosecuting offenders. She was chosen as an awardee from among different nominees endorsed by various embassies and consulates around the world;

WHEREAS, Sec. Toots Ople was the first Secretary of the newly-established Department of Migrant Workers, the primary agency tasked to ensure the protection of OFWs, the promotion of their interests, the timely and effective resolution of their problems and concerns, and their effective reintegration into Philippine society;

WHEREAS, Sec. Toots Ople's life was a testament to the enduring legacy of championing being a person for others and becoming a pillar to whom generations of OFW families may rely on for light and support;

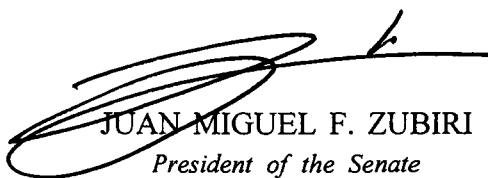
WHEREAS, it is only fitting that as the nation mourns the passing of Sec. Toots Ople, we also honor the life of service she lived which has touched, changed, and inspired the lives of Filipinos around the world;

WHEREAS, Sec. Toots Ople left an indelible mark for the passion she has exemplified while promoting and protecting the lives of the labor sector, most especially our migrant workers: Now, therefore, be it

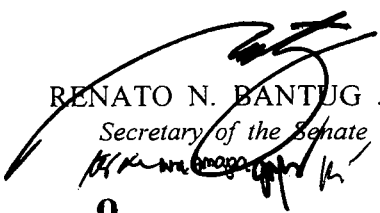
Resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, To express its profound sympathy and sincere condolences on the demise of Maria Susana "Toots" Vasquez Ople, honoring her dedication as a lifelong advocate of the labor sector and a champion of the rights and welfare of Filipino migrant workers.

Resolved, further, That a copy of this Resolution be furnished to the bereaved family of the late Secretary Maria Susana "Toots" Vasquez Ople.

Adopted,


JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI
President of the Senate

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate on August 23, 2023.



RENATO N. BANTUG Jr.

Secretary of the Senate

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