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**SENATE**

PS Res. No. 75

BY: 

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Introduced by **SENATOR SONNY ANGARA**

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**RESOLUTION**

**RECOGNIZING, COMMENDING AND EXTENDING WELL-WISHES TO THE TWELVE (12) ATHLETES REPRESENTING THE PHILIPPINES IN VARIOUS EVENTS AT THE 2016 SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES IN RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL FROM AUGUST 5 TO 21, 2016**

**WHEREAS**, twelve (12) Filipino athletes—namely, swimmers Jasmine Alkhaldi and Jessie Lacuna; table tennis paddler Ian Lariba; golfer Miguel Luis Tabuena; long jumper Maristella Sunan; hurdler Eric Cray; marathon runner Mary Joy Tabal; weightlifters Hidilyn Diaz and Nestor Colonia; boxers Rogen Ladon and Charly Suarez; and taekwondo jin Kristie Alora shall represent the Philippines at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro from August 5 to 21, 2016;

**WHEREAS**, this delegation's participation will be the 21<sup>st</sup> instance the Philippines participates in the Summer Olympics. The country first sent athletes during the 1924 Olympics in Paris, France wherein the Philippines was the first Southeast Asian country to compete and win a medal;

**WHEREAS**, the Summer Olympics is a globally recognized multi-sport event, organized by the International Olympic Committee and held every four years;

**WHEREAS**, swimmers Jasmine Alkhaldi and Jessie Lacuna have already represented the country in various sporting events. Alkhaldi holds the Philippine women's record in the 200-, 100-, and 50-meter freestyle and the 50-, and 100-meter butterfly events, while Lacuna has a total fifty one (51) gold medals with thirty five (35) national and sixteen (16) international titles, and registered a personal best of one minute, fifty point seventy three seconds (1:50.73) during the 2015 Southeast Asian Games in Singapore;

**WHEREAS**, table tennis paddler Ian Lariba is the country's flag bearer for the 2016 Rio Olympics opening ceremony. Lariba represented the country in various international table tennis competitions including the 2014 World Table Tennis Team Championships in Japan where she led the Philippines to a first-place victory;

**WHEREAS**, golfer Miguel Luis Tabuena has been playing the Asian Tour since 2011. Tabuena won the 2015 Philippine Open and was named by the Philippine Sportswriters Association as one of the "Sportsmen of the Year" for 2016;

**WHEREAS**, long jumpers Marestella Sunang Eric Cray and Mary Joy Tabal shall be competing in their respective categories. Ranked 28th in the world, Sunang won gold in July 2016 at the Kazakhstan Open, setting a new Philippine record of 6.72 meters. Sunang participated in the 2008 Beijing and 2012 London Olympics. Cray set a new national record in the 400-meter hurdles event while winning gold at the 2015 Southeast Asian Games, setting a time of forty nine point forty (49.40) seconds. Meanwhile, Tabal won silver in the 2015 Southeast Asian Games and represented the Philippines in the 2016 Boston Marathon;

**WHEREAS**, weightlifters Hidilyn Diaz and Nestor Colonia's participation shall be the first time the Philippines will send a pair of lifters since the 1988 Seoul Olympics. In November 2015, during the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) World Weightlifting Championship, Colonia won a bronze medal in the clean-and-jerk 56 kg. division while Diaz won three bronze medals in the snatch, clean-and-jerk, and total categories in the women's 53 kg. division, becoming the first Filipina to win a medal in the competition. The Rio Olympics will be the third consecutive time Diaz participates in the games, after 2008 Beijing and 2012 London;

**WHEREAS**, boxers Rogen Ladon and Charly Suarez will compete in their respective categories. Ladon has won various international tournaments such as the Asia Amateur Boxing Championships and Southeast Asian Games. Suarez won via technical knockout (TKO) in the semifinals of the Asian-Oceanic Olympic Qualifiers in China;

**WHEREAS**, taekwondo jin Kristie Alora is the first Filipino jin to make it to the Olympics since Marie Antoniette Rivero and Tshomlee Go represented the country in the 2008 Beijing Olympics;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines has not won an Olympic medal since Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco won a silver medal in the light flyweight boxing competition in the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, United States. The Philippines has won a total of nine (9) Olympic medals so far;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Senate of the Philippines recognizes, commends and extends its well-wishes to the twelve athletes—swimmers Jasmine Alkhaldi and Jessie Lacuna; table tennis paddler Ian Lariba; golfer Miguel Luis Tabuena; long jumpers Maristella Sunang, Eric Cray and Mary Joy Tabal; weightlifters Hidilyn Diaz and Nestor Colonia; boxers Rogen Ladon and Charly Suarez; and taekwondo jin Kristie Alora at the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from August 5 to 21, 2016.

Adopted.



**SONNY ANGARA**