

SENATE

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P.S. Res. No. 812

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Introduced by **SENATOR LEILA M. DE LIMA**

**RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER AND OUTSTANDING
CONTRIBUTION TO PHILIPPINE PUBLIC SERVICE OF OMBUDSMAN
AND FORMER SUPREME COURT ASSOCIATE JUSTICE
CONCHITA CARPIO-MORALES**

1 WHEREAS, the Senate of the Philippines recognizes the outstanding record
2 and achievements of distinguished Filipinos in their dedicated service to the
3 Philippine government and their laudable contributions to nation-building;

4
5 WHEREAS, Conchita Carpio-Morales has an illustrious and impressive record
6 of government service that has spanned almost five (5) decades. She is the
7 Ombudsman of the Philippines from 2011 to 2018, and prior to that, she held the post
8 of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines, and served in the lower
9 courts, as well as in the Department of Justice. She has secured appointments from
10 five (5) Philippine presidents: Ferdinand Marcos, Corazon Aquino, Fidel Ramos,
11 Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, and Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III;

12
13 WHEREAS, for almost 12 years beginning in 1971, Conchita Carpio-Morales
14 was at the Department of Justice, where she first served as a Special Assistant to then
15 Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos;

16
17 WHEREAS, in 1983, she started her work in the judiciary as a Regional Trial
18 Court (RTC) Judge in Pili, Camarines Sur. In 1986, President Corazon Aquino
19 transferred her appointment as RTC Judge to Pasay City, and in 1994, President Fidel

1 Ramos promoted her as an Associate Justice in the Court of Appeals, where she
2 eventually headed its 7th Division¹;

3
4 WHEREAS, in 2002, after three (3) decades of rising from the ranks, she was
5 promoted by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as an Associate Justice of the
6 Supreme Court and became the first female magistrate to swear in a president-elect in
7 2010²;

8
9 WHEREAS, upon her retirement as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court,
10 Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales was appointed by President Benigno Aquino III as
11 Ombudsman in July 2011³. When she was appointed Ombudsman, the justice system
12 was perceived to be "extremely sluggish; cases have mostly involved low level officials
13 and employees; and public confidence in government's resolve to root out corruption
14 is practically non-existent." With steely resolve and steadfast determination, she
15 professionalized and upgraded the Office of the Ombudsman's capabilities,
16 revolutionized its anti-corruption program to include the designation of deputy
17 ombudsmen for environmental concerns and for investment-related problems; and
18 improved its responsiveness to calls for public assistance."⁴;

19
20 WHEREAS, under her leadership, the Office of the Ombudsman, has
21 significantly reduced the backlog of cases in its docket and recorded an improved
22 conviction rate of its prosecutors to 75 percent (from 68 percent in 2015 and 2016,
23 and 41 percent in 2011), while ensuring the accountability of several high-ranking
24 officials and government employees for corruption⁵;

25
26 WHEREAS, in recognition of her sterling record in the judiciary and her
27 outstanding work as the Ombudsman, Justice Carpio-Morales has received numerous
28 awards, including the UP Alumni Association's Outstanding Award in Championing
29 Justice/Judiciary on the Occasion of its Centenary, the Quezon City Government's Ten

¹ Office of the Ombudsman; *Present Ombudsman*. Retrieved from: <https://www.ombudsman.gov.ph/about-us/present-ombudsman/>

² ABS-CBN News (2018 July 25) *Ombudsman Bows Out*. Retrieved from: <http://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/26/18/ombudsman-bows-out>

³ Office of the Ombudsman; *Present Ombudsman*. Retrieved from: <https://www.ombudsman.gov.ph/about-us/present-ombudsman/>

⁴ ABS-CBN News (27 July 2016) *Ombudsman Carpio-Morales wins Ramon Magsaysay Award* Retrieved from: <http://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/27/16/ombudsman-carpio-morales-wins-ramon-magsaysay-award>

⁵ Philippine Star (2018 July 6) *Morales hopes successor continues reforms*. Retrieved from: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2018/07/06/1830954/morales-hopes-successor-continues-reforms-ombudsman#WEcXUjgXOgiKz1f6.99>

1 Most Outstanding Citizens for 2013, and The Philippine Daily Inquirer’s Filipino of
2 the Year in 2014⁶;

3
4 WHEREAS, in the citation in the award given in 2014 by the Ateneo de Manila
5 University, it was stated that “(t)hroughout her long career in government,
6 Ombudsman Carpio-Morales has tirelessly shown integrity, competence, dedication,
7 and sound judgment, and has implemented foundational policies and programs
8 aligned with the common good and have benefited the greater community⁷;

9
10 WHEREAS, in 2016, Ombudsman Carpio-Morales was recognized by the
11 prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Awards, Asia’s Nobel Prize equivalent, for “her moral
12 courage and commitment to justice in taking head-on one of the most intractable
13 problems in the Philippines; promoting by her example of incorruptibility, diligence,
14 vision and leadership, the highest ethical standards in public service”⁸;

15
16 WHEREAS, Ombudsman Carpio-Morales has retired as the Ombudsman
17 effective 25 July 2018 after completing a 7-year full term, making her the second
18 Ombudsman to have completed a term since Aniano Desierto retired in October 2002⁹.
19 She has been in government service for the past 47 years;

20
21 WHEREAS, Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales’s moral courage and
22 commitment to justice should be emulated by all government officials and employees.
23 By her example of incorruptibility, diligence, vision, and leadership, Justice and
24 Ombudsman Carpio-Morales is able to set the highest ethical standards in public
25 service that should inspire the youth and the future generations of Filipinos;

26
27

⁶ Philippine Star (2018 July 6) *Morales hopes successor continues reforms*. Retrieved from:
<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2018/07/06/1830954/morales-hopes-successor-continues-reforms-ombudsman#WEcXLjgXOgIkz1f6.99>

⁷ Ateneo De Manila University News (5 Septemebr 2014) *Ateneo to Honor Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales with the Government Service Award*. Retrieved from: <http://www.ateneo.edu/news/ateneo-honor-ombudsman-conchita-carpio-morales-government-service-award>

⁸ Philippine Daily Inquirer (2016 July 27) *Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales wins Ramon Magsaysay Award*. Retrieved from:
<http://globalnation.inquirer.net/142013/ombudsman-conchita-carpio-morales-wins-ramon-magsaysay-award#ixzz5MPE3Y8s3>

⁹ GMA News. (2018 July 25) *Ombudsman Morales spends last day in office wit “official family”* Retrieved from:
<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/661830/ombudsman-morales-spends-last-day-in-office-with-official-family/story/>

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that
2 the Senate recognizes the achievements and outstanding record of retired Associate
3 Justice and Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales, who exemplifies the best and the
4 brightest in Philippine government service that is worthy of admiration of the Filipino
5 people.

Adopted,


HEILA M. DE LIM