

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



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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 747

RECEIVED BY

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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 FOR CHAMPIONING 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;

WHEREAS, Sec. Toots Ople is the first Secretary of the newly-established Department of Migrant Workers - the primary agency tasked to protect the rights and promote the welfare of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs);

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

WHEREAS, Sec. Toots Ople earned degrees from the University of Santo Tomas and the Kennedy School School of Government at the Harvard University;

WHEREAS, Sec. Toots Ople founded the Blas F. Ople Policy Center and Training Institute (Ople Center), a non-profit organization pushing for welfare of the OFWs, named in honor of her late father, Senator Blas Ople, who served as Labor minister during the administration of the then President Ferdinand E. Marcos, Sr.;

WHEREAS, her unparalleled zeal in pushing for the protection of the rights of migrant workers was not unseen by the world. It 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 has also championed OFW rights by co-anchoring the popular daily radio show "Bantay OFW" at DZXL's Tatak RMN network, as well as the DWIZ 882 AM's "Global Pinoy". She has brought to the attention of the public the plight of our kababayans, and painstakingly took action to address their woes;

WHEREAS, her life is 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, so too should we honor the life of service she has lived which touched, changed and inspired lives of Filipinos around the world;

WHEREAS, Sec. Toots Ople has 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, as it is hereby resolved, to express 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 for championing 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,


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.