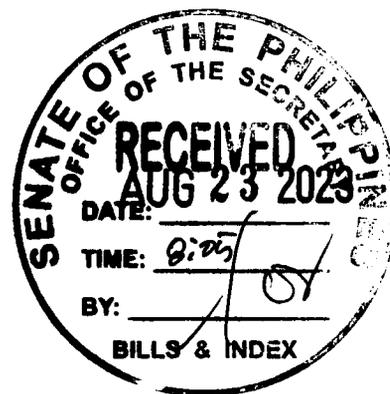


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )

SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 748



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Introduced by Senators Juan Miguel F. Zubiri, Joel Villanueva and Pia S. Cayetano

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**RESOLUTION**

**EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE DEATH OF MARIA SUSANA "TOOTS" VASQUEZ OPLE, SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MIGRANT WORKERS**

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable Maria Susana "Toots" Vasquez Ople, Secretary of the Department of Migrant Workers, passed away on August 22, 2023 at the age of 61;

**WHEREAS**, Maria Susana "Toots" Vasquez Ople was born on February 9, 1962 in Hagonoy, Bulacan to spouses Blas F. Ople, former Senate President, and Susana Vasquez;

**WHEREAS**, Maria Susana "Toots" Vasquez Ople was a tireless champion for the rights, protection and welfare of Filipino migrant workers and laborers—a compassionate woman with a huge heart for the people, who has dedicated her life and her career to the least privileged and the least heard;

**WHEREAS**, Maria Susana "Toots" Vasquez Ople finished her elementary education at St. Therese's College in Quezon City in 1974, her secondary education at the Sandersky High School in Michigan, U.S.A. in 1980, earned her AB Communication Arts degree from the University of Santo Tomas in 1984, and earned her Master's degree in Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government – Harvard University in 1999 for which she received the Josephine Vernon Award for Excellence in Communications;

**WHEREAS**, upon the creation of the Department of Migrant Workers Act, through Republic Act No. 11641, Maria Susana "Toots" Vasquez Ople was appointed as its first Secretary to be at the helm of its transition into a full-fledged Department. Through her leadership, the Department now serves as the refuge of Filipino migrant workers all over the world to cater to their needs;

**WHEREAS**, Maria Susana "Toots" Vasquez Ople was a columnist, writer, and former presidential speechwriter, and worked in the Senate of the Philippines as a researcher at the Office of former Sen. Ernesto Herrera, and as Chief of Staff for her father, former Sen. Blas F. Ople;

**WHEREAS**, Maria Susana "Toots" Vasquez Ople served as an Undersecretary of the Department of Labor and Employment in 2004-2009, founded the Blas F. Ople Policy Center,

a nonprofit organization that extends assistance to distressed Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in different parts of the world, and to victims of human trafficking and illegal recruitment;

**WHEREAS**, Maria Susana "Toots" Vasquez Ople was the national coordinator on women workers' education for the International Labor Organization, and was one of five members of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking, the first Filipino to hold the post;

**WHEREAS**, the passing of a dedicated public servant is a great loss to the nation and leaves an irreplaceable void: Now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES**, To express, as it hereby expresses, its profound sympathy and sincere condolences on the death of Maria Susana "Toots" Vasquez Ople.

**RESOLVED, FURTHER**, That a copy of this Resolution be furnished the bereaved family of the late Maria Susana "Toots" Vasquez Ople.

**Adopted,**

  
JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

  
JOEL VILLANUEVA

  
PIA S. CAYETANO