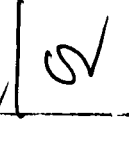


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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 754

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RESOLUTION
**EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF
THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE DEATH OF MARIA SUSANA
"TOOTS" VASQUEZ OPLE**

1 **WHEREAS**, Department of Migrant Workers Secretary Susan "Toots" Ople, a
2 faithful advocate of labor right for Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW), has passed away
3 on 22 August 2023 at the age of sixty-one (61)¹;

4
5 **WHEREAS**, Secretary Toots was born on February 9, 1962. She is the
6 youngest of the seven (7) children of former Labor Secretary, Senate President and
7 Foreign Secretary Blas Ople, to whom she served as Chief of Staff upon her father's
8 acquisition of the Senate post and later on as Secretary of the Department of Foreign
9 Affairs.²;

10
11 **WHEREAS**, following her father's step, she was appointed as an
12 Undersecretary of the Department of Labor and Employment by former President
13 Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in 2004, where she created numerous projects for OFWs, one
14 notably a computer literacy program called "Tulay (Bridge)." Also in the same year,
15 she founded the Blas F. Ople Policy Center and Training Institute, a non-government
16 organization that provides direct assistance through legal help and reintegration
17 services upon a person's return to the Philippines.³;

18
19 **WHEREAS**, among her countless achievements include being selected as the
20 first Filipino to be appointed to the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Trust Fund
21 for Victims of Human Trafficking in 2020 and being a recipient of the Trafficking in
22 Persons (TIP) Hero Award given by the U.S. State Department. Apart from these
23 accomplishments on paper, Secretary Ople was consistently on the ground, being
24 present and speaking to OFWs and their families in times of crisis and hardship.;

¹ DMW Sec Toots Ople passes away at 61. Marita Moaje and Cielito Reganit. <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1208293>. August 22, 2023

² About us. Blas F. Ople Policy Center & Training Institute. <https://web.archive.org/web/20151208134446/http://www.blasoplecenter.com/about-us/>. Accessed August 23, 2022.

³ The Blas F Ople Policy Center & Training Institute. <https://www.blasoplecenter.com/about>

1 **WHEREAS**, Secretary Toots has continued to champion the welfare of the
2 OFWs by being the voice of the voiceless that fearlessly promoted their fair and just
3 treatment. She has earned the respect and admiration of not just the OFWs but of
4 many Filipino people. Her unwavering advocacy for migrant workers has transformed
5 the lives of many families and aided in fostering the development of laws that defend
6 their rights and interests;

7
8 **WHEREAS**, Secretary Toots' lifelong commitment to OFWs is an embodiment
9 of love for country and people. Her passing leaves an enormous void in the realm of
10 public service and advocacy for migrant workers. Her legacy will continue to draw
11 inspiration to future generations as an exceptional leader, communicator, and bridge-
12 builder.;

13
14 **RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, by the Senate of the Philippines,
15 to express the profound sympathy and sincere condolences of the Senate on the death
16 of Maria Susana "Toots" Vasquez Ople.

17
18
19 Adopted,

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MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY