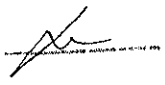


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

SECRETARY

7 SEP 17 2007

SENATE  
P.S. Res. No. 135

RECEIVED BY: 

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**INTRODUCED BY THE HONORABLE MAR ROXAS**

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**A RESOLUTION  
CALLING ON PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO TO ISSUE A PARDON TO  
PRESIDENT JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME AND ON  
HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS, AS WELL AS FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

*Whereas*, on 12 September 2007, Sandiganbayan issued a decision convicting former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada for the crime of Plunder, which, however, can still be appealed;

*Whereas*, only the President of the Philippines has the power to grant pardon to a convicted person whether applied for or not;

*Whereas*, such an act of pardon granted to the former president on humanitarian grounds should not in any way be construed as condoning corruption, or as diminishing the legal weight of the ruling of the Sandiganbayan, but serves solely as an embodiment of the people's will for closure on one of the most divisive chapters of our national life;

*Whereas*, the former president who is seventy years old, has spent six years under detention, has shown remarkable humility and is entitled to live the rest of his life quietly and in peace with members of his family;

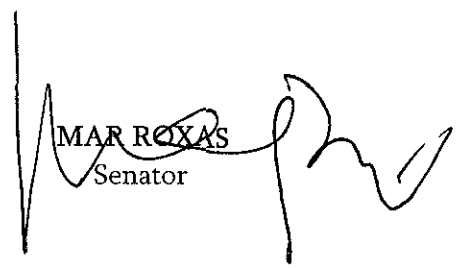
*Whereas*, there is a felt, widespread and compelling sentiment among our people to end partisan strife, engender dialogue among all sides of the political fray, and restore the national agenda of jobs, livelihood, education and health;

*Whereas*, the grant of pardon to former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada, popularly known as "Erap", shall serve the imperatives of national unity and reconciliation with justice. Further, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's own Medium-Term Philippine Development Program officially declares the need to "heal the wounds of EDSA as part of her overall vision of national unity, stability and progress;

*Whereas*, a great majority of the Filipino people support the pardon of President Estrada as the singular act of pardon may yet be the cure to the festering disunity of the nation and unite the people behind the political, economic, and social stability needed for greater national strength and resiliency in an increasingly competitive world;

*Resolved*, as it is hereby resolved, that the sense of the Senate calls on President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to extend pardon to former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada at the appropriate time and on humanitarian grounds; *Resolved*, further, that copies of this Resolution be officially transmitted by the Senate to the Office of the President, the House of Representatives, and to former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada as a springboard to formal consultations and discussions on the best way forward for this country.

Adopted,

  
MAR ROXAS  
Senator