FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES First Regular Session A MARKENSKI ME SECRETARY

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## SENATE

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P.S. Res. No. <u>222</u>

## INTRODUCED BY HON. MANNY VILLAR

## RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING THE WORLD VISION IN THE PHILIPPINES ON THE OCCASION OF ITS GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION THIS DECEMBER 2007 AND TO RECOGNIZE ITS FIFTY YEARS OF MINISTRY TO THE FILIPINO PEOPLE ESPECIALLY AMONG THE CHILDREN AND THE POOREST OF THE POOR.

WHEREAS, since it started its ministry in the Philippines in 1957, World Vision has sponsored more than 1 million children. Through the years, World Vision strategically responded to the needs of the poorest of the poor all over the country in the forms of education, health, economic assistance and many other projects, as it started with orphanages in General Santos and Davao, which provided shelter and refuge for children who were abandoned or whose parents died during the World War II;

WHEREAS, in the early 1980's, World Vision started its community development projects with the aim of empowering the poorest of the poor by engaging different stakeholders including the government and the churches. Since then, more than 300 projects were implemented in response to the needs of the poorest communities in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. More than 5 million children and adults directly benefited from World Vision's programs and projects since 1957 worth more than US\$600 million dollars of accumulated funding over a period of 50 years, including capacity-building and actual implementation of livelihood and other projects that eventually improved people's lives. World Vision consistently partners with community-based organizations in facilitating transformational development;

WHEREAS, as the organization's commitment to be responsive in times of disaster, World Vision promptly and appropriately responded to emergency situations like the Ormoc landslide, Mt. Pinatubo eruption, Quezon Province mudslide, refugees and internally displaced people in times of conflicts, earthquake in Baguio City and typhoons affecting people from different parts of the country. Millions of dollars were invested to provide life saving assistance to victims of disasters. Child-friendly spaces were also established to enable children to cope very well in stressful environments caused by natural disaster and armed conflicts. As a result of these efforts, the national and local government recognized World Vision as the Best NGO in Disaster and Emergency Response;

WHEREAS, World Vision significantly contributes in expanding and improving the TB program implementation in the country. Through its *"Kusog Baga"* or Healthy Lungs and Social Mobilization (SMT) against TB Projects, the cure rate of TB reached more than 85%, the acceptable standards of the Department of Health and World Health Organization. World Vision is now considered as major stakeholder in the fight

against TB. The organization invested millions of dollars for TB projects through the support of generous donors all over the world that help thousands of TB patients and their families. **World Vision** was also instrumental in developing the first ever TB in Children Treatment protocols for public practitioners, which the Department of Health and the World Health Organization approved and is presently being rolled out and promoted by the DoH all over the country;

WHEREAS, World Vision also responds to child labor issues by directly assisting more than 50,000 child laborers from different parts of the country through its *Pag-aaral ng Bata para sa Kinabukasan* (ABK) Project, a special project for combating child labor through education. With millions of dollars in funding and in collaboration with other child-focused NGOs, the ABK Project is present in 10 provinces, 19 municipalities and 16 cities nationwide. This is done in collaboration with the Department of Labor and Employment and the Department of Education;

WHEREAS, World Vision's contribution to peace building especially in the southern part of the country has made a difference especially in improving the relationships of Christians, Muslims and Indigenous People; also known as "tri-people" group. Interfaith dialogues are facilitated leading to the organization of Interfaith Groups in different parts of Mindanao. Children are also engaged in ways appropriate to their age and capacity as peace advocates. As result, a sponsored child of World Vision received an award from Civicus World Assembly in Finland as ambassador of peace;

WHEREAS, World Vision continues its wholistic ministry to achieve fullness of life for every child in 31 provinces and 38 cities all over the country with more than 110,000 currently sponsored children supported by an annual budget of over US\$20 million;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Senate of the Philippines expresses its sense that the Philippine government formally acknowledge the contributions of **World Vision** in the Philippines, to congratulate the organization on the occasion of its golden anniversary celebration this December 2007 and to recognize its fifty years of ministry to the Filipino people especially among the children and the poorest of the poor.

Adopted.

Senato