



Republic of the Philippines
QUEZON CITY COUNCIL
Quezon City
22nd City Council

PR22CC-630

41st Regular Session

RESOLUTION NO. SP- 9421, S-2023

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF THE CITY MAYOR, HONORABLE MA. JOSEFINA G. BELMONTE, THE CITY VICE MAYOR, HONORABLE GIAN G. SOTTO, AND THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE 22ND QUEZON CITY COUNCIL TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF SECRETARY MARIA SUSANA "TOOTS" V. OPLE ON HER PASSING AND HONORING HER CONTRIBUTION TO THE WELFARE OF FILIPINO MIGRANT WORKERS

Introduced by Councilor EDGAR "Egay" G. YAP

Co-Introduced by Councilors Bernard R. Herrera, Tany Joe "TJ" L. Calalay, Dorothy A. Delarmente, M.D., Joseph P. Juico, Nikki V. Crisologo, Charm M. Ferrer, Fernando Miguel "Mikey" F. Belmonte, Candy A. Medina, Aly Medalla, Dave C. Valmocina, Tatay Rannie Z. Ludovica, Godofredo T. Liban II, Kate Galang-Coseteng, Geleen "Dok G" G. Lumbad, Albert Alvin "Chuckie" L. Antonio III, Don S. De Leon, Wencerom Benedict C. Lagumbay, Atty. Anton L. Reyes, Imee A. Rillo, Raquel S. Malañgen, Irene R. Belmonte, Nanette Castelo-Daza, Marra C. Suntay, Joseph Joe Visaya, Alfred Vargas, MPA, Ram V. Medalla, Shaira "Shay" L. Liban, Aiko S. Melendez, Mutya Castelo, Maria Eleanor "Doc Ellie" R. Juan, O.D., Kristine Alexia R. Matias, Eric Z. Medina, Emmanuel Banjo A. Pilar, Vito Sotto Generoso, Victor "Vic" Bernardo, Alfredo "Freddy" Roxas and Julian Marcus D. Trono

WHEREAS, Secretary Susan "Toots" V. Ople made a career championing the rights of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs);

WHEREAS, Secretary Toots, as she was fondly called, was chosen in 2022 to lead the newly-created Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) which is tasked to protect the rights and promote the welfare of migrant workers. The DMW performs all the powers and functions of seven (7)-merged agencies that cater OFWs;

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WHEREAS, under the leadership of Secretary Toots, the DMW prioritized addressing welfare cases stemming from instances of abuse by foreign employers;

WHEREAS, among Secretary Toots' priority programs include looking into the effects of climate change on workers' welfare, the lack of decent jobs in the Philippines, the issue of illegal recruiters, and the feminization of labor migration;

WHEREAS, in 2004, Secretary Toots was appointed as Undersecretary of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). She also founded and led the Blas Ople Policy Center and Training Institute (Ople Center), a non-profit organization that handles labor and migration;

WHEREAS, Secretary Toots' work at Ople Center became instrumental in facilitating the rescue of OFWs exploited in countries in the Middle East and Southeast Asia. The Ople Center campaigned against the use of Filipino migrant workers as drug mules in international drug rings;

WHEREAS, Secretary Toots pushed for the end of contractualization and sought the passage of an anti-age discrimination law so that Filipinos would not turn to work abroad after being rejected by local employers due to their age;

WHEREAS, President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr., dubbed her as "a great champion for labor movement in the Philippines". The President praised Secretary Toots who dedicated her life and every waking moment to the welfare of laborers in general and migrant workers, in particular. She was tireless in her pursuit to supporting and protecting Filipino workers;

WHEREAS, the DMW on Tuesday announced the demise of Secretary Toots, who died at around 1:00 PM on August 22, 2023, after her long battle with breast cancer;

WHEREAS, Secretary Toots will be remembered for many things, but mostly for her compassion and commitment to making sure every Filipino migrant worker has the right to live and work decently.

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NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF QUEZON CITY IN REGULAR SESSION ASSEMBLED, to express, as it does hereby express, the profound sympathy and sincere condolences of the City Mayor, Honorable Ma. Josefina G. Belmonte, the City Vice Mayor, Honorable Gian G. Sotto, and the Honorable Members of the 22nd Quezon City Council to the family and friends of Secretary Maria Susana "Toots" V. Ople on her passing and honoring her contribution to the welfare of Filipino migrant workers.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that a copy of this Resolution be furnished to the bereaved family of the late Secretary Susan "Toots" V. Ople.

ADOPTED: September 4, 2023.


GIAN G. SOTTO
City Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:


ATTY. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS, III
City Government Department Head III
(City Council Secretary)

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this Resolution was APPROVED by the City Council on Second Reading on September 4, 2023 and was CONFIRMED on September 11, 2023.


ATTY. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS, III
City Government Department Head III
(City Council Secretary)



