



Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

RESOLUTION NO. 255

Introduced by **HON. CARLITO “Lito” S. MARQUEZ**

RESOLUTION
CONDOLING WITH THE FAMILY OF PHILANTHROPIST,
STAUNCH ENVIRONMENTALIST AND ANTI-MINING ADVOCATE,
THE LATE REGINA PAZ L. LOPEZ

WHEREAS, the second of seven children of Eugenio “Geny” Lopez, Jr. and Conchita La’O, scion of the Lopez Family which had interests in media, property development and power generation, Gina Lopez was born on December 27, 1953;

WHEREAS, while studying in the United States, Lopez tried meditation and at 18, Lopez left her life of privilege to become an Ananda Marga yoga missionary and after serving in Portugal and India, she spent 11 years in Africa;

WHEREAS, in India, Lopez “lived as the poor lived” and learned “how not to be wasteful” as she could only collect one pail of water a day in the slum area she lived in and she learned the quality of persistence, the value of hardship and the error of blind obedience;

WHEREAS, it came as no surprise that when she returned to Manila after 20 years of missionary work, Lopez devoted her time to social causes and in 1994, now back in the arms of her family and their flagship business, Lopez also assumed the leadership of the ABS-CBN Foundation;

WHEREAS, among her many pioneering projects and programs was Bantay Bata 163, which rescues children who are victims of domestic violence;

WHEREAS, Lopez also produced educational television shows, drummed up support for micro-entrepreneurs, and tapped on the Filipinos’ bayanihan or volunteer spirit in support of medical missions, feeding programs, and other outreached projects for the less fortunate;

WHEREAS, a pure champion of the environment; bold and fearless in her advocacies, regardless of the consequences, Lopez, in the years since leaving the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) where her brief stint was marked by her run-ins with mining companies, had continued with her advocacies, for which she drew millions of followers on social media;

WHEREAS, her passing was considered a great loss by her family and friends in environmental advocacy and she is a personification of our hopes for a sustainably greener environment with bountiful natural resources for all;

WHEREAS, Lopez was also known for leading ABS-CBN Foundation, the socio-civic arm of ABS-CBN and under her leadership, Bantay Bata 163 – the first rescue hotline for children in Asia – was launched. In 1997, Bantay Bata was the United Nations Grand Awardee for Excellence, besting 187 countries all over the world;

WHEREAS, Lopez also founded Bantay Kalikasan, a program that advocates for the protection of the environment. Bantay Kalikasan was behind the successful reforestation of the La Mesa Watershed and the rehabilitation of 17 esteros of the Pasig River;

WHEREAS, in 2010, recognizing her efforts, President Benigno S. Aquino III appointed her to chair the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC);

WHEREAS, Lopez is also known for pioneering Educational Television or ETV in the Philippines. She put up video libraries in 10,000 public schools across the country. ETV aired for 15 years, mounting 16 educational television which included shows on Science (Sineskwela), Math (Math Tinik), Values (Hirayamanawari), History (Bayani) and English (Epol /Apple). For Sineskwela, Lopez was honored with the Unesco Kalinga Award, the first Southeast Asian to earn such a distinction;

WHEREAS, as vice-chairperson of the ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation, Lopez was credited with providing microfinance assistance to micro-entrepreneurs;

WHEREAS, in June 2016, Gina was appointed by President Duterte as Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in an ad interim basis;

WHEREAS, Lopez hosted an environmental show on ABS-CBN, entitled “G Diaries,” which premiered on June 4, 2017. The show focuses on environmental conservation, area development, and innovations.

WHEREAS, she became the first Filipino to be awarded the prestigious Seacology Prize on October 5, 2017, at Berkeley, California for her “exceptional achievement in preserving island environments and culture.”

WHEREAS, as DENR Secretary, Lopez launched a 10-month crackdown on erring large-scale mining operations, during which she ordered the closure or suspension of 28 large-scale mines, more than half of the current operating mines across the country, for failing to meet environmental standards – a result of a mining audit that integrates social, environmental and biodiversity concerns

among the primary criteria, deviating from the usual technical and legal aspects of mining operations;

WHEREAS, she also ordered the cancellation of 79 inactive Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSAs) of mining companies whose projects are situated within or near watersheds.

WHEREAS, Lopez was particularly opposed to the destructive nature of large-scale mining, which she said, cause people in the communities to suffer as forests are shaved off, mountains flatten, and large holes dug up, causing irreversible damage to the environment.

WHEREAS, Gina Lopez died on July 19, 2019 due to multiple organ failure. She was 65;

WHEREAS, Lopez was a bastion of environmental activism, and a source of hope and inspiration for many communities and organizations that had the opportunity to work and be served by her;

WHEREAS, for many of us, this was how she wanted to be remembered: strong but sensitive, with a smile. Her values were unwavering. It was always personal for her because the advocacies for her were all about people's lives.

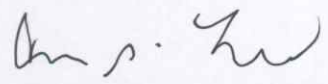
WHEREAS, she was a one-person green warrior who took the fight to where it matters – in boardrooms, chatrooms, government offices, and in her favorite office – out in the open, under a forest canopy or underwater, where she was in her element with people she loved in a country she never gave up hope on;

WHEREAS, she is a notable earth warrior, philanthropist, and cultural advocate, she is a great loss for our country. She was a fearless advocate and a tireless philanthropist, dedicating most of her life for the betterment of her fellow Filipinos. Her exceptional dedication in protecting our environment has no equal today;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives extends its profound condolences with the family of the earth warrior, **MS. MA. REGINA L. LOPEZ**, the "lakambini of the nature";

RESOLVED FURTHER, that a copy of this Resolution be furnished to the bereaved family of the late Ms. Ma. Regina L. Lopez.

Adopted,


HON. CARLITO "Lito" S. MARQUEZ 