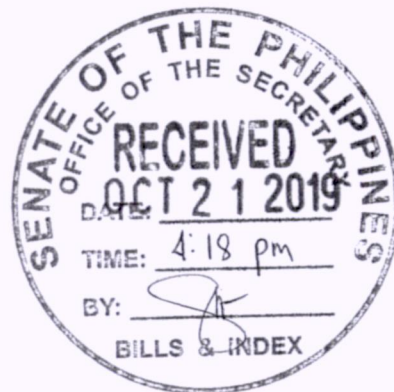


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



SENATE

P. S. RES. NO. 168

INTRODUCED BY

Senators Vicente C. Sotto III, Ralph G. Recto, Juan Miguel F. Zubiri, Franklin M. Drilon, Juan Edgardo "Sonny" Angara, Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay, Pia S. Cayetano, Leila M. De Lima, Ronald "Bato" M. Dela Rosa, Win Gatchalian, Christopher Lawrence T. Go, Richard J. Gordon, Risa Hontiveros, Panfilo "Ping" M. Lacson, Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid, Imee R. Marcos, Emmanuel "Manny" D. Pacquiao, Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan, Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III, Grace L. Poe, Ramon Bong Revilla Jr., Francis "Tol" N. Tolentino, Joel Villanueva, Cynthia A. Villar

RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE AQUILINO "NENE" QUILINGING PIMENTEL JR., FORMER SENATE PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF THE "LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE"

WHEREAS, the Honorable Aquilino "Nene" Quilinging Pimentel Jr., a distinguished public servant, a fearless human rights lawyer, parliamentarian, and legislator, a staunch defender of democracy, a family-oriented and religious man, and the Father of the Local Government Code, passed away on 20 October 2019, at the age of 85;

WHEREAS, in his almost five decades of illustrious and unblemished career as a public servant, he served the government in various capacities: Delegate to the 1971 Constitutional Convention representing Misamis Oriental; Mayor of Cagayan de Oro City (1980-1984); Batasang Pambansa Assemblyman (1984-1986); Minister/Secretary of Local Government, Presidential Adviser and Chief Negotiator with the Muslim Rebels (1986-1987); Senator (1987-1992; 1998-2004; 2004-2010); Senate Majority Leader (June 3, 2002 – July 23, 2002); Senate President (November 13, 2000 – June 30, 2001); Senate Minority Leader (2004-2010 and July 23, 2001 – June 3, 2002); and Member of the Consultative Committee to review the •1987 Constitution (2018);

WHEREAS, in 1980, despite a very limited campaign fund, he was elected Mayor of Cagayan de Oro City, but he was ousted for "political turncoatism" by the Commission on Elections in 1981 while he was on a

private training course in the United States, only to be reinstated to his position in order to defuse the escalating turmoil caused by the peaceful demonstrations and non-violent protests staged by his fellow Cagayanos that had already made the national headlines;

WHEREAS, in 1984, he won a seat in the Batasang Pambansa but he was again ousted on allegations of cheating in the elections, thus aggravating the growing sentiments against injustice, fraud, and corruption, and prompting him and Mrs. Corazon Aquino to rally the Opposition and intensify their campaign in pressuring the government to hold "snap elections";

WHEREAS, a true patriot and nationalist who wished to unite the Opposition beyond personal ambition, he graciously stepped aside as the personal choice of Mrs. Corazon Aquino to be her running mate in the presidential election to give way to the political partnership being pushed by influential opposition leaders;

WHEREAS, in 1986, he was appointed Minister/Secretary of Local Government and Presidential Adviser and Chief Negotiator with the Muslim Rebels, but later resigned to run for the Senate in the 1987 elections;

WHEREAS, as Senator, he authored several key pieces of legislation, most notably the Organic Act for the Local Government Code of 1991 for which he was hailed as the "Father of the Local Government Code", and the Organic Act for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao;

WHEREAS, on September 16, 1991, he, along with then Senate President Jovito Salonga and Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Agapito Aquino, Joseph Estrada, Teofisto Guingona Jr., Sotero Laurel, Orlando Mercado, Ernesto Maceda, Victor Ziga, Rene Saguisag and Wigberto Tañada, collectively known as the "Magnificent 12", voted against the extension of the Ph-US Bases Treaty that ended years of foreign military presence in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, as chairman of the Blue Ribbon Committee, he recommended the prosecution of top government officials involved in the Expo Pilipino Centennial scam, the misuse of the funds of the Retirement and Separation Benefits System of the Armed Forces, and the issuance of fake land titles by certain Land Registration Administration personnel;

WHEREAS, as chairman of the Committee on Local Government, he supported far-reaching amendments to further strengthen the role of local government units in national development;

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Senate President, the Senate registered an impressive record in terms of laws enacted, the most significant of which were R.A. 8759 or the "Public Employment Service Office Act of 1999"; R.A. 8980 or the "Early Childhood Care and

Development Act”, R.A. 8976 or the “Philippine Food Fortification Act of 2000”; R.A. 8791 or the “General Banking Law of 2000”; R.A. 8792 or the “Electronic Commerce Act of 2000”, R.A. 9003 or the “Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000”, R.A. 8991 or the “Batanes Protected Area Act of 2000”; R.A. 8970 which Prohibits the Manufacture, Importation, Distribution and Sale of Laundry and Industrial Detergents with Hard Surfactants; R.A. 8981 or the PRC Modernization Act of 2000”, and R.A. 9064 or the “National Athletes, Coaches and Trainers Benefits and Incentives Act of 2001 or “Sports Benefits and Incentives Act of 2001”;

WHEREAS, during the impeachment trial of then President Joseph Ejercito Estrada, his personal ties with the President notwithstanding, he voted in favor of unsealing the envelope because he felt that "it was the only way to determine whether or not the contents of the envelope were relevant to the case at bar", and losing the vote, he resigned as Senate President;

WHEREAS, as an advocate of the federal form of government, he authored and actively supported the bill that would shift the country into a Federal Republic in order to increase decentralization, greater local power and access to resources most especially among regions outside Metro Manila, thereby giving them defined autonomy for self-rule with limited independence from the central government and speeding up the modernization and development of the country;

WHEREAS, for his “sterling qualities of a true leader and advocate of nationalist issues” and for “his unwavering efforts in nation-building through judicious legislation, unblemished public service and virtuous advocacy,” former Senate President Pimentel Jr., “an accomplished barrister, educator, author, local executive, public administrator, national legislator, activist and a loving father and grandfather,” received the Benigno S. Aquino Award for Nationalism from the Federation of Catholic Schools Alumni Associations (FeCaSAA);

WHEREAS, the death of a respected statesman, an inspiring leader, a man of humility, honesty, and integrity, a patriot, and an icon of democracy, who had dedicated his life for the betterment of his beloved country, and who had stood against all odds in protecting democracy and in fighting abuses in government, facing the struggles unafraid and unmindful of the dangers to his own life, is a great loss to the nation and to the Filipino people: Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, To express, as it hereby expresses, its profound sympathy and sincere condolences on the death of the Honorable Aquilino “Nene” Quilinging Pimentel Jr., former Senate President and Father of the “Local Government Code.”

RESOLVED, FURTHER, That a copy of this Resolution be given to the bereaved family of the late Senator Aquilino "Nene" Quilinging Pimentel Jr.

Adopted,


VICENTE C. SOTTO III
Senate President