

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

SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 478



Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

RESOLUTION

COMMENDING AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY JÓZSEF BENCZE FOR HIS INVALUABLE WORK AS ENVOY OF THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY TO THE PHILIPPINES RESULTING IN STRENGTHENED HUNGARIAN-PHILIPPINE RELATIONS

WHEREAS, it was in September 1973 when the Philippines and Hungary established diplomatic ties, and 18 years after, in September 1991, Hungary opened its resident mission in Manila but eventually closed in May 1995 due to constraints, and its jurisdiction was subsequently transferred to the Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia;

WHEREAS, in September 2016, H.E. József Bencze arrived in Manila, and three months later, in December 2016, he presented his Letter of Credence as Ambassador of Hungary to the Philippines to President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, making him the first ambassador of Hungary to the Philippines after 21 years of absence in the country;

WHEREAS, in March 2017, Hungary reopened its Embassy in Manila, consistent with its policy direction of "opening to the East";

WHEREAS, born on 23 March 1954 in Szikaszó, Hungary, Ambassador József Bencze finished Law from the József Attila University of Sciences and his Criminal Investigation degree from the Police College in Budapest;

WHEREAS, before being assigned to the Philippines as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Hungary, Ambassador József Bencze held various significant posts such as being Ambassador to the Republic of Macedonia (2011), Senior High Counsellor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2010), High Commissioner at the National Police Headquarters (2007–2010), Lieutenant General since 15 July 2007, Director-General for Enforcement at the National Headquarters of the Customs and Finance Guard (1997–2007), High Counsellor at the Office of the Prime Minister (1995–1997), and Mayor of the Local Government of Farnos Village (1990–1991);

WHEREAS, under H.E. József Bencze's term, the Philippines-Hungary Parliamentary Friendship Association, which was created in 2000, was re-launched and had its membership expanded;

WHEREAS, it was also under H.E. József Bencze's watch as Ambassador when the two countries signed the Agreement on Economic Cooperation, which provides for the establishment of a Joint Economic Commission to promote the expansion and diversification of mutually advantageous economic cooperation activities;

WHEREAS, the Republic of Hungary has extended humanitarian assistance to the Philippines at various times, once to share expertise in developing technologies and techniques in water management when our country was facing a water crisis, and at another time to send financial aid to victims of the bombing of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Jolo, Sulu;

WHEREAS, as H.E. József Bencze's duty in the Philippines draws to an end, we would like to commend him for being instrumental in strengthening and reinvigorating the bilateral ties between the Philippines and Hungary, the reopening of the Hungarian Embassy in Manila, and the cooperation of the two countries in many spheres;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines to commend Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary József Bencze for his invaluable work as envoy of the Republic of Hungary to the Philippines resulting in strengthened Hungarian-Philippine relations.

Adopted,



JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI