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SENATE
P. S. Res. No. 130

RECEIVED BY: *J. E.*

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

RESOLUTION

COMMENDING MARIA SUSANA "TOOTS" OPLE FOR HAVING BEEN CONFERRED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE GLOBAL TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP) HERO AWARD FOR 2013 FOR HER PERSISTENT AND UNYIELDING EFFORT TO CURB HUMAN TRAFFICKING

WHEREAS, in the recent US State Department's Annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, the Philippines sustained its Tier 2 status which officially recognizes the country's significant efforts to adhere to the benchmarks prescribed in meeting the minimum standards to address human trafficking;

WHEREAS, the annual TIP Hero Award "recognizes individuals who have devoted their lives to the fight against human trafficking. Through their efforts preventing trafficking, protecting victims, and prosecuting offenders, TIP Heroes are at the forefront of the fight to end modern day slavery";

WHEREAS, the Philippine Government is vigorously and actively working on fully complying with the minimum standards for the elimination of the severe forms of trafficking as provided under the 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection's Act of the United States in order to attain a Tier 1 status, the highest rank a country may receive;

WHEREAS, the private sector, represented by various civic and people's organizations, are active and invaluable partners of the government which makes its anti-trafficking efforts more holistic, responsive, and effective;

WHEREAS, Maria Susana "Toots" Ople is the President of the Blas Ople Policy Center and Training Institute that advocates labor and migration issues, particularly in addressing and fighting human trafficking;

WHEREAS, Ms. Ople has been selflessly dedicated to this advocacy for years now and has, in fact, earned the respect of the international academe when she was given the Harvard Alumni Achievement Award by the John F. Kennedy School in 2010 in recognition of her active campaign against human trafficking;

WHEREAS, Ms. Ople having contributed greatly in the Philippine government's efforts to curb human trafficking was chosen as the Global Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Hero Award for 2013 from among different nominees endorsed by various embassies and consulates around the world;

WHEREAS, on 19 June 2013, Ms. Ople received the Global TIP Hero Award from US State Secretary John Kerry in a ceremony held in Washington, D.C. She was the only Asian awardee for this year;

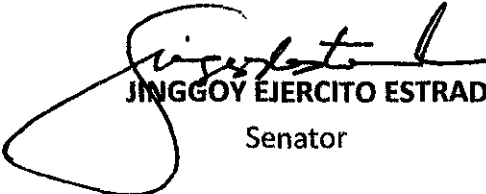
WHEREAS, in congratulating Ms. Ople, US Ambassador to the Philippines Harry K. Thomas Jr. referred to her as the OFWs' "'nanay' in the truest spirit of the word";

WHEREAS, as the award is another feather on her cap, Ms. Ople once again brought pride and honor to our country;

WHEREAS, Ms. Ople and the international recognition she recently received strengthens the resolve of both the government and the private sector to continue and even intensify their efforts against modern-day slavery;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Philippine Senate commends Maria Susana "Toots" Ople for having been conferred the Global Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Hero Award for 2013.

Adopted,


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator