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SENATE

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P. S. Res. No. 131

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE DEATH OF LYDIA DE VEGA-MERCADO, ASIA'S FASTEST WOMAN, TRACK AND FIELD LEGEND, AND FILIPINO SPORTS ICON

1 WHEREAS, the Senate of the Philippines, has consistently recognized and paid
2 tribute to remarkable Filipinos with exemplary accomplishments and valuable
3 contribution to the development of society and nation building;

4 WHEREAS, Lydia De Vega-Mercado, hailed as Asia's fastest woman and one
5 of the Philippines' greatest and beloved athletes, passed away on August 10, 2022 at
6 the age of 57, after a long battle with breast cancer;

7 WHEREAS, "Diay," as she was fondly called, was born on December 26, 1964
8 in Bulacan and was diligently mentored by her father Francisco "Tatang" De Vega.
9 She was also among the notable prodigies of the Project: Gintong Alay (PGA)
10 athletics program of the government in 1979, which provided rigid trainings and
11 focused development program;

12 WHEREAS, she is a national treasure and sports heroine who brought
13 immense honor and pride to the country with her numerous achievements in
14 international sports competitions, including the Southeast Asian Games, Asian
15 Games, and Asian Athletics Championships, and represented the country in the
16 Olympics twice, particularly in Los Angeles in 1984 and in Seoul in 1988;

17 WHEREAS, at the young age of 16, she won two gold medals in the 1981 SEA
18 Games in Manila in the 200m and 400m events. She continued her winning streak in

1 succeeding SEA Games securing gold medals in Singapore in 1983 and 1993, in
2 Jakarta in 1987, and in Manila in 1991. She firmly cemented herself as a highly
3 decorated track and field superstar, with a total of nine gold medals from the
4 biennial regional sports meet;

5 WHEREAS, she emerged as the Asia's sprint queen in the 1980s, as she won
6 the gold medal in the 100m event in the 1982 Asian Games in New Delhi, India, and
7 replicated the gold medal victory in Seoul, South Korea in 1986. She also claimed
8 two gold medals in the Asian Athletics Championships in Kuwait City in 1983, and
9 secured first place finish in Singapore in 1987 in the 100m and 200 meter events;

10 WHEREAS, she retired from active competition in 1994 with a win in the 100-
11 m event in the Manila-Fujian Games;

12 WHEREAS, her personal best of 11.28 seconds in the 100-meter event
13 became a national record which remained unsurpassed for 33 years, a testament to
14 her athletic prowess and excellence;

15 WHEREAS, she became the country's flag-bearer in many occasions which
16 demonstrated the Filipinos' skill, determination and sportsmanship in the
17 international arena alongside the world's best athletes;

18 WHEREAS, her unparalleled and celebrated professional career motivated a
19 new generation of athletes and inspired many others to take up sports which
20 fostered self-discipline, health and fitness, and patriotism;

21 WHEREAS, Lydia De Vega-Mercado stands as one of the giants of Philippine
22 sports and is one of the greatest athletes the country has ever produced. As such,
23 her passing is an immense loss not only to her bereaved family but to the entire
24 Filipino nation as well;

25 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate,
26 to express its profound sympathy and sincere condolences of the Senate of the
27 Philippines on the death of Lydia De Vega-Mercado, Asia's fastest woman, track and
28 field legend and Filipino sports icon.

Adopted,


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA