

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



SENATE

P. S. RES. NO. 1244

Introduced by Senator Francis "Chiz" G. Escudero

RESOLUTION

**EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE
CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE ON THE DEMISE OF FORMER
SENATOR SANTANINA "NINA" TILLAH RASUL**

1 **WHEREAS**, the Honorable Santanina "Nina" Tillah Rasul, who made
2 history as the first Muslim to be elected Senator and as the only Muslim
3 woman to serve in the Philippine Senate, passed away on November 28, 2024,
4 at the age of 94;

5
6 **WHEREAS**, a native of Sulu, the favored muse of National Artist
7 Napoleon Abueva and acclaimed artist Irineo Miranda, is truly the portrait of
8 a "Tausug Princess", having led a noble life of purpose and service;

9
10 **WHEREAS**, the life of Senator Rasul was remarkably progressive in
11 every aspect, including her marriage with Ambassador Abraham Rasul, Sr.,
12 with whom she shared six children and eleven grandchildren, who were
13 nurtured by the couple with the same love for community, service, and
14 country;

15
16 **WHEREAS**, a staunch advocate of education, equality, and peace, her
17 devotion to public service began even before she held public office and
18 extended beyond her tenure as an elected official— from being a public school
19 teacher, barrio councilor, provincial board member, to being a Senator and a
20 lifetime literacy champion through the Magbassa Kita Foundation;

21
22 **WHEREAS**, a true intellectual, she graduated valedictorian at Laum,
23 Tabawan Elementary School, first honor at Sulu High School, and *cum laude*
24 at the University of the Philippines with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.
25 She also earned a master's degree in National Security Administration from
26 the National Defense College of the Philippines and doctoral units in Public
27 Administration from the U.P. College of Public Administration;

28
29 **WHEREAS**, embodying the adage that those who do not seek power are
30 best suited to wield it, she was invited to join the senatorial slate of President
31 Corazon Aquino and was the first Muslim to be elected and re-elected to the
32 Senate, blazing a trail for all women and Muslims;

1 **WHEREAS**, her legacy lives on in the measures that she championed
2 as a legislator, such as Republic Act No. 6850, more commonly known as the
3 “Rasul Law”, which grants civil service eligibility to government employees
4 who have worked in a career civil service position for at least seven years; R.A.
5 7192 or the Women in Development and Nation-Building Act, which
6 dismantled gender discrimination, opened the doors of the Philippine Military
7 Academy to women, and allocated funds for women in all government
8 agencies; R.A. No. 6949, which declared March 8 of every year as “National
9 Women’s Day”; R.A. No. 7168, which elevated the Philippine Normal College
10 to Philippine Normal University; and the provisions on women’s
11 representation in local legislative bodies contained in the Local Government
12 Code;

13
14 **WHEREAS**, Senator Rasul successfully pushed for landmark reforms
15 on education, the rights of women and minorities, armed not just with
16 brilliance, but also with her trademark diplomacy and motherly charisma,
17 earning her the title, “puso ng Senado”;

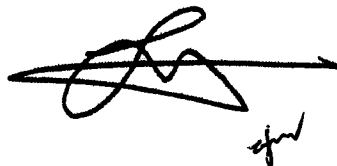
18
19 **WHEREAS**, a true advocate of literacy, she established the *Magbassa*
20 *Kita* Foundation in the 1960s, dedicating herself to her lifelong mission of
21 teaching non-literate adults in Mindanao to read, authored the law that
22 created the Literacy Coordinating Council, and was fittingly appointed
23 Honorary Ambassador of the UNESCO in 1990, during the International
24 Literacy Year;

25
26 **WHEREAS**, Senator Rasul’s role as part of the government panel that
27 negotiated the signing of the peace agreement with the Moro National
28 Liberation Front in 1996, is an outstanding example of what can be achieved
29 when women are given the space to participate meaningfully in political affairs
30 and decision-making, and are made an indispensable part of crafting
31 wholistic and empathic solutions for resolving conflict and building lasting
32 peace;

33
34 **WHEREAS**, Senator Rasul, whose life and legacy are marked by
35 courage, intellectual prowess, and tireless dedication to public service, has
36 left an indelible imprint, deserving of the deepest respect and heartfelt
37 appreciation of this Chamber and the Filipino nation: *Now, therefore, be it*

38
39 **RESOLVED BY THE SENATE**, To express, as it hereby expresses, its
40 profound sympathy and sincere condolences on the demise of former Senator
41 Santanina “Nina” Tillah Rasul.

42
Adopted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'R' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish below it.