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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 576

RECEIVED BY: _____



Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**

RESOLUTION
HONORING AND REMEMBERING IBRAHIM "TOTO" PAGLAS III FOR HIS
UNPARALLELED DEDICATION IN BRIDGING THE GAP CREATED BY CONFLICT AND
POVERTY, AND HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE AND SOCIO-
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN MINDANAO

WHEREAS, on 07 August 2008, the country lost one of its most promising statesmen and business leaders in Ibrahim "Toto" Paglas III, who passed away at age 48 after succumbing to complications stemming from meningitis;

WHEREAS, Ibrahim "Toto" Paglas III was mayor of the town of Datu Paglas in Maguindanao for 10 years;

WHEREAS, as mayor of Datu Paglas town, Ibrahim "Toto" Paglas III believed in the value of hard work, exhorting his constituents to live by the slogan, "Bawal ang Tamad sa Datu Paglas";

WHEREAS, as mayor of Datu Paglas town, Ibrahim "Toto" Paglas III curbed criminality in Datu Paglas town by fiercely going after criminals and other lawless elements;

WHEREAS, Ibrahim "Toto" Paglas III strove to stop the spiral of violence in his region and used his status as nephew of Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) Chair Salamat Hashim to persuade MILF commanders to give up their arms and to work and earn instead;

WHEREAS, Ibrahim "Toto" Paglas III left the mayoralty to devote his time to the banana export business, turning Datu Paglas town into an agribusiness center;

WHEREAS, Ibrahim "Toto" Paglas III advocated business development, employment and education in the ARMM by establishing Paglas Corporation, which employed over 2,000 workers on its 1,200 hectares banana plantation in Datu Paglas town in Maguindanao and in its main office in Davao City where ninety (90%) are Muslims, and a good number are women;

WHEREAS, as an entrepreneur, Ibrahim "Toto" Paglas III believed in equal opportunity for all and espoused this value by providing jobs to Christians, Muslims and Lumads in his vast banana farms;

WHEREAS, through his dedication and perseverance, Ibrahim "Toto" Paglas III convinced investors from Italy, Saudi Arabia and the United States of America to invest in the

La Frutera banana plantation, and later brought in an Israeli engineering firm to provide irrigation technology to the plantation;

WHEREAS, as a result of his efforts, La Frutera broke the world record for the heaviest bunch of bananas and exported an estimated 5.3 million boxes of bananas in 2001 to China, South Korea, Japan and the Middle East;

WHEREAS, with his entrepreneurial spirit as Chief Executive Officer and President of the Paglas Group of Companies, he was able to attract millions of investments for his hometown, in the fields of agricultural enterprise, banking, cooperatives, and information technology;

WHEREAS, Ibrahim "Toto" Paglas III represented the youthful dynamism of the region in spite of its sporadic conflict and poverty, as he advocated entrepreneurship, employment and education, and earned recognition as he publicly spoke of a Southern region brimming with hope;

WHEREAS, for his leadership, Ibrahim "Toto" Paglas III was awarded the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) in 1999 and was invited to speak in foreign business conferences, including one in New York where Bill Gates was one of the guests he impressed;

WHEREAS, as grandnephew of the first Muslim Brigadier General and former Senator Salipada Pendatun and nephew of founding MILF Chair Salamat Hashim, he never wavered in his support for the peace process;

WHEREAS, he served as a consultant to the Presidential Assistant of the GRP-MILF Peace Process where he served as a "back channel" liaison between the government and the military on the one hand, and top leadership of the MILF, particularly Chairman Salamat, on the other;

WHEREAS, he was an adopted member of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class '83 and as such was the first person and still the only Muslim who was given that distinction by the PMA;

WHEREAS, Ibrahim "Toto" Paglas III headed the ARMM Movers Group, an informal grouping of young Muslim leaders actively involved in exploring possibilities and opportunities to bring in economic development into the ARMM;

WHEREAS, he was also the Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Business and Peace Program of the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP);

WHEREAS, Ibrahim "Toto" Paglas III deserves to be honored and fondly remembered for his enlightened leadership in Mindanao and his contribution to economic development not only of his region but of the whole country; *Now, therefore, be it:*

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Philippine Senate honor and remember Ibrahim "Toto" Paglas III for his unparalleled dedication in bridging the gaps created by conflict and poverty, and his outstanding contribution to peace and economic development through acceptance of diversity and enlightened leadership.

RESOLVED FURTHER, to provide copies of this Resolution to the family of Ibrahim "Toto" Paglas III and the different organizations and associations he belonged to, and to guarantee its wide dissemination to enable the public to understand how the late Ibrahim "Toto" Paglas III's unparalleled dedication and commitment to peace and socio-economic development improved the lives of our Christian, Muslim and Lumad brothers in Mindanao.

Adopted,



RICHARD J. GORDON
Senator