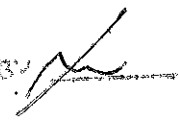


**SENATE**

P. S. Res. **152**

RECORDED BY 

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Introduced by Sen. Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

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**RESOLUTION**

**CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING REESE FERNANDEZ FOR BEING AWARDED THE 2010 ROLEX AWARDS FOR ENTERPRISE - YOUNG LAUREATES PROGRAMME UNDER THE ENVIRONMENT CATEGORY**

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine Senate has in several occasions paid tribute to outstanding Filipinos for their astonishing feat of bringing home pride and glory to the country;

**WHEREAS**, the Ms. Reese Fernandez was chosen as one of the five awardees of the 2010 Rolex Awards for Enterprise - Young Laureates Programme in Switzerland in strong recognition of her social involvement in transforming the lives of many impoverished women in the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, the Rolex Awards for Enterprise-Young Laureates Programme was launched in 2009 and supports visionary young men and women in implementing their inventive ideas that tackle pressing concerns and issues in five areas: science and health, applied technology, exploration, the environment and cultural preservation;

**WHEREAS**, the Young Laureates Programme enables young pioneers to implement groundbreaking projects and bright ideas at a critical juncture in their careers. The award recipients will profit from a growing educational support system, the network of Rolex specialists and achievers, including more than 100 former Laureates, who will be encouraged to provide expertise and guidance.

**WHEREAS**, the awardees were chosen by the Young Laureates jury made up of 10 international luminaries with expertise in the fields of exploration, environment, science and health, applied technology, and cultural preservation. The jury also includes eminent scientists, explorers, environmentalists and other specialists who are known internationally;

**WHEREAS**, in 2007, Reese Fernandez co-founded Rags2Riches, a social enterprise company that revolutionized the women's business practices by arranging for them to sell their products direct to retailers. Ms. Fernandez and her team of young professionals sought advice from designers, who demonstrated how the rugs could be transformed into fashion handbags, eyeglass cases and wine bottle holders, all for sale in top-end shops.

**WHEREAS**, deeply committed to helping others to improve their lives and alleviate poverty, Ms. Fernandez used her skills to train people to become social entrepreneurs, giving them the means to confront many challenges, from rebuilding

housing after a cyclone to teaching organic agriculture to farmers. At present, about 300 women now work for Rags2Riches;

**WHEREAS**, the exemplary commitment and social involvement exemplified by Ms. Reeze Fernandez has proven to the world that indeed any individual can help make a difference in our society;

**WHEREAS**, this outstanding achievement by a Filipino social entrepreneur deserved to be commended for the honor and recognition she has brought to our country.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines to congratulate and commend Ms. Reese Fernandez for being awarded the 2010 Rolex Awards for Enterprise – Young Laureates Programme under the Environment Category.

**Approved.**

  
**MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID**  
Senator