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

RECEIVED

SENATE

P.S.R. No. 1247

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE APPOINTMENT OF HIS EXCELLENCY, MOST REVEREND PABLO VIRGILIO SIONGCO DAVID, BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF KALOOKAN, AS NEW CARDINAL OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

WHEREAS, on October 6, 2024, His Holiness Pope Francis named His Excellency, Most Reverend Pablo Virgilio Siongco David, Bishop of the Diocese of Kalookan, as among the new cardinals of the Catholic Church, to be elevated on December 7, 2024, in the Vatican;

WHEREAS, Cardinal-designate Pablo Virgilio David, or Bishop Ambo as he is fondly called, is the 10th Filipino raised to the rank of cardinal of the Catholic Church since 1960, the third Filipino made a cardinal by Pope Francis, and the first from the Diocese of Kalookan;

WHEREAS, Bishop Ambo will be joining the other living cardinals-- Cardinal Gaudencio Rosales, Cardinal Orlando Quevedo, Cardinal Jose Advincula, and Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle--in helping Pope Francis in bridging the local churches to the universal Catholic Church, in proclaiming God's goodwill to all people, in shepherding the faithful, and in showing great mercy and compassion to people overwhelmed by pain and suffering;

WHEREAS, Bishop Ambo, born on March 2, 1959, in Betis, Guagua, Pampanga, to spouses Pedro Sahagun David and Bienvenida Sanchez Siongco, at an early age, naturally and spontaneously found his priestly vocation from his catechism class to the Eucharist and his fondness for the promotion of the Pampanga Church's heritage, especially the grand Betis Church;

WHEREAS, Bishop Ambo, was ordained priest in 1983, appointed as Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of San Fernando in 2006, and designated as Bishop of the Diocese of Kalookan in 2015;

WHEREAS, a priest for 41 years, Bishop Ambo is one of the country's leading biblical scholars, holding a licentiate and doctorate in sacred theology from the Catholic University of Louvain and having been trained at the Ecole Biblique et Archeologique Francaise de Jerusalem;

WHEREAS, a bishop for 18 years, Bishop Ambo is entrusted with responsibilities and the mission to help further the ministries of the Catholic Church in his capacities as President (2021-present) and former Vice President (2017-2021) of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), incoming Vice President of the Federation of Asian Bishops Conference in January 2025, and member of the Ordinary Council of the General Secretariat of the Synod, to name a few;

WHEREAS, Bishop Ambo is recognized as one of the leading voices against inhumane government policies that violate human rights and trample on human dignity, such as the violent and bloody war on drugs that stigmatized and traumatized the impoverished communities of the Diocese of Kalookan, which covers the cities of Caloocan, Navotas, and Malabon.

WHEREAS, Bishop Ambo, with his gentle and kind persona, living according to his personal motto of kenosis, realizing his duty to care for his flock, and his profound understanding of the Church, its philosophy of life and social teachings, finding its expression during the height of the war on drugs and thereafter, through organized faith communities, establishing spiritual sanctuaries, and mission stations to bring the Church to the poor, to those on the margins of the society, and the excluded;

WHEREAS, the elevation of Bishop Ambo as the country's new cardinal comes at a most special time as the communities of faithful prepare for the opening and observance of the holy year of the Jubilee 2025, as an opportunity to be renewed in hope in Christ, with the Church;

WHEREAS, as the country's new cardinal, Bishop Ambo clearly understands the assignment, that even if the majority of Filipinos are Catholic, in the rest of Asia, Christianity is, in his words, a tiny, tiny minority, it is one of his responsibilities to ensure openness to intercultural, interreligious dialogue, and to finding spaces to be able to collaborate, to be able to walk with people of other faiths, other religions, other denominations, within Christianity, to be able to work together for social justice, for the poorest of the poor, for human rights and the integrity of Creation;

WHEREAS, having personally worked with Bishop Ambo and shared most of his advocacies, his appointment, and elevation as cardinal brings a sense of admiration, immense joy, and great hope knowing that those in the peripheries, the lost, the least, the last, the vulnerable, the oppressed, and the excluded, will be bound, in communion, to one another in the unity of the Church;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE TO CONGRATULATE AND COMMEND THE APPOINTMENT OF HIS EXCELLENCY, MOST REVEREND PABLO VIRGILIO SIONGCO DAVID, BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF KALOOKAN, AS NEW CARDINAL OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

Adopted.


RISA HONTIVEROS
Senator