

## EXPRESSING THE SENATE'S HIGH ESTEEM AND ADMIRATION FOR ITS DISTINGUISHED PRESIDENT, THE HONORABLE MANNY VILLAR, FOR HIS EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP DURING THE THIRD REGULAR SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, the Honorable Manny Villar was elected Senate President on July 24, 2006 and assumed the challenging responsibilities of being the country's third-highest official amidst efforts from influential sectors and powerful government institutions to abolish the Senate through various schemes such as People's Initiative and unicameral amendment of the Constitution;

WHEREAS, determined to prove the importance of the Senate as an instrument in the exercise of check-and-balance, Senate President Villar led the Chamber in upholding the Senate's independence and its vital role in a republican democracy, a stand unequivocally sustained by the people and reinforced by favorable decisions of the Supreme Court;

WHEREAS, despite the unrelenting efforts by its detractors to undermine the Senate as a legislative body, the Chamber under the leadership of Senate President Villar worked diligently and industriously, and passed a record number of legislative measures, many of which were enacted into laws, foremost of which was R.A. No. 9401, or the General Appropriations Act of 2007, to enable the national government to fund, among others, the educational, health, agricultural, environmental and housing services needed by the people;

WHEREA'S, the Senate, during the Third Regular Session, also passed, among other vital measures, R.A. No. 9367, the Biofuels Act of 2006; R.A. No. 9369, amending the Automated Elections Act; R.A. No. 9372, the Human Security Act of 2007; R.A. No. 9379, Handline Fishing Act; R.A. No. 9439, the Hospital Detention Law; R.A. No. 9422, Strengthening the Regulatory Functions of the POEA to improve the protection and promotion of the welfare of OFWs and their families; R.A. No. 9397, amending the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992; and R.A. No. 9474, an Act that Governs the Operations and Regulation of Lending Companies;

WHEREAS, Senate President Villar's parliamentary skill and practical knowledge of inter-chamber dynamics, having been a former Speaker of the House himself, has enabled the Senate to pass various House bills essential to promoting socio-economic services and development to the country's regions and provinces;

WHEREAS, in recognition of its overall performance under the leadership of Senate President Villar, the Senate continues to gain the trust and confidence of the Filipino people as shown by the high satisfaction rating it received, and has earned for its President the distinction of the "most trusted public official"; *Now, therefore, be it* 

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, to express, as it hereby expresses, its high

esteem and admiration for its distinguished President, the Honorable Manny Villar, for his

diligence and exemplary leadership during the Third Regular Session of the Thirteenth

Congress of the Philippines. Adopted.

FRANCIS Senator