



THIRD REGULAR SESSION

RESOLUTION NO. 125

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE ROLE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF REVEREND FR. ELISEO R. MERCADO, JR., OMI, PH.D. TO PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE BANGSAMORO

WHEREAS, Father Eliseo “Jun” R. Mercado, Jr. was a member of the religious congregation of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI). He holds a doctorate in Divinity and Humanity, studied Master’s in Theology and Missiology at the Gregorian University in Rome and completed work in Islamic Studies and Arabic Studies at the Oriental Institute in Cairo, Egypt;

WHEREAS, he was the President of Notre Dame University in Cotabato City, Philippines in 1992 to 2002. He served as the Director for Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation for the OMI based in Rome from 2003 to 2006;

WHEREAS, while serving as the President of Notre Dame University, Fr. Mercado was an active advocate in the peace-building process in Mindanao, and thus, establishes the Institute of Peace Education in the said University;

WHEREAS, in 1994, Fr. Mercado spearheaded the creation of Kusog Mindanaw (“Strong Mindanao”). This multisectoral coalition, primarily established to promote peace and development, and begin a process of increasing the voice of Mindanawons in national policymaking;

WHEREAS, the Catholic priest actively participated in the peace process in Mindanao, a recognized expert on the role of Islam in Southeast Asia and the Philippines, he was designated Chairperson of the Independent cease-fire Monitoring Committee of the Philippine Government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and as the assembly floor leader of the Southern Philippines Council for Peace & Development (SPCPD) Consultative Assembly during the period of political transition following the peace agreement between the Philippine Government & the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF);

WHEREAS, he was also actively involved with the Mindanao Task Force on Poverty Alleviation, the Social Reform Agenda (SRA) Council for Central Mindanao, and the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor for Central Mindanao in 1995 to 1998;

WHEREAS, he played a major role in brokering the ceasefire between the Estrada administration and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) back in 2000;

WHEREAS, he has been extensively involved in peace process in Mindanao, thus was designated by the President of the Republic as the Chief Peace Negotiator with the Muslim Fronts;

WHEREAS, he was the Lead Convener of the National Peace Council that work for the resumption of the formal peace talks between the Philippine Government and all rebel fronts including the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF);

WHEREAS, in 2006, the priest was a member of the 6-person delegation of the Union of Superiors General that visited South Sudan to formulate the Church response to the urgent pastoral needs following the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005;

WHEREAS, for many years, he was the parish priest at the Muslim-populated town of Datu Piang, Maguindanao;

WHEREAS, for his peace-building efforts, he receive the following presidential citations:

1. *The Presidential Award given by President Corazon Aquino for Outstanding Community Service;*
2. *The Presidential Citation for Outstanding Service and Contribution to Peace given by President Fidel Ramos for his participation in the Government of the Republic of the Philippines-Moro National Liberation Front (GRP-MNLF) Peace Process and his Role in the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development (SPCPD) Consultative Assembly; and*
3. *The Benigno S. Aquino, Jr. Fellowship Award for Outstanding Community Service for his service and commitment to the Peace Process and Peace Building efforts in Mindanao;*

WHEREAS, in November 17, 2014 and until the time The Creator took him on 23rd of May 2021 at the age of 72, he had been a member and a Vice-Chairman of the 6ID Kampilan Multi-Sector Advisory Board (MSAB).

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Bangsamoro Transition Authority, to recognize and commend the role and contributions of the longtime Mindanao peace advocate, Reverend Fr. Eliseo R. Mercado, Jr., OMI, Ph.D. to peace and development in the Bangsamoro.

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that a copy of this resolution be furnished to the Oblates of Mary Immaculate Philippine Province.

ADOPTED, June 17, 2021.

Certified Correct:


PROF. RABY B. ANGKAL
Secretary-General

Attested:


ATTY. ALI PANGALIAN M. BALINDONG
Speaker

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