



**THIRD REGULAR SESSION**

**RESOLUTION NO. 126**

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF THE BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY ON THE DEATH OF FR. ELISEO MERCADO, AND HONORING HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BANGSAMORO PEOPLE'S CAUSE FOR GENUINE AUTONOMY**

**WHEREAS**, Fr. Eliseo “Jun” de la Rosa Mercado, Jr., OMI, a staunch supporter of the Bangsamoro cause, succumbed to cardiac arrest while he was confined at the Cotabato Regional and Medical Center on May 23, 2021, at 3:20 pm;

**WHEREAS**, the Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI) in Cotabato City, Fr. Jun’s congregation, announced the passing of the 72-year-old priest on the same day. The announcement stressed that prior to his heart attack, Mercado had successfully recovered from COVID-19 after testing negative for the virus on May 22. Fr. Jun was being transferred to the Medical Center’s Intensive Care Unit to complete his recovery following weeks of confinement when medical personnel detected a change in his vital signs;

**WHEREAS**, Fr. Jun was a senior member of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI), and had devoted his life to bridging understanding among peoples of different faiths and cultures. He held a doctorate in divinity and humanity and a master’s degree in both theology and philosophy, having also completed work in Islamic Studies and Arabic Studies at the Gregorian University in Rome and the Oriental Institute in Cairo;

**WHEREAS**, he was a parish priest in Datu Piang, Maguindanao, a town predominantly populated by Muslims. From 1992 to 2002, he served as the president of Notre Dame University in Cotabato City. During his stint as the university’s president, he established the Institute of Peace Education;

**WHEREAS**, Fr. Jun is recognized for his consistent support and participation in interfaith dialogues, furthering understanding, sensitivity, and peaceful co-existence in the region;

**WHEREAS**, Fr. Jun joined the consultative assembly of the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development, a body founded following the peaceful settlement between the Philippine Government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in 1996. Fr. Jun also served as a chair in the independent ceasefire monitoring committee of the Philippine Government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front;

**WHEREAS**, Fr. Jun chaired the National Citizens’ Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL) in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) since 2004. He also served as a senior adviser to the Institute of Autonomy and Governance (IAG);

**WHEREAS**, Fr. Jun was also one of the prominent figures who were vocal in their support for the passage of the Bangsamoro Organic Law. His unwavering commitment to the Bangsamoro peoples’ cause and his good relationship with his community made him known as “a Catholic with a passion for Islam.”;

**WHEREAS**, the Bangsamoro mourns the passing of a sincere friend, who despite a difference in faith shared the same heart for service together with Muslims in the region;

WHEREAS, the Bangsamoro Transition Authority expresses its gratitude for his selfless contributions to the cause of peace and his service for the Bangsamoro region.

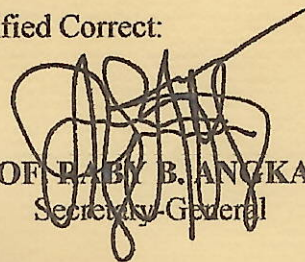
NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Bangsamoro Transition Authority, to express its profound sympathy and sincere condolences on the death of Fr. Eliseo "Jun" Mercado on May 23, 2021, honoring his contributions to the Bangsamoro people's cause for genuine autonomy.

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that copies of this resolution be furnished to his congregation, the Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI) in Cotabato City, and circulated among media outlets in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

ADOPTED, June 17, 2021.

Certified Correct:



PROF. RUBY B. ANGKAL  
Secretary-General

Attested:



ATTY. ALI PANGALIAN M. BALINDONG  
Speaker

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