



Republic of the Philippines  
**QUEZON CITY COUNCIL**

Quezon City  
20<sup>th</sup> City Council

PR20CC-550

35<sup>th</sup> Regular Session

RESOLUTION NO. SP- **7183**, S-2017

A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND EXPRESSING THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE QUEZON CITY GOVERNMENT TO THE SUPREME COURT OF THE PHILIPPINES HEADED BY CHIEF JUSTICE MARIA LOURDES P. A. SERENO IN LIGHT OF THE JUDICIAL REFORMS PILOT TESTED IN QUEZON CITY WHICH RESULTED TO A REMARKABLE SPEEDY ADJUDICATION OF CASES.

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Introduced by Councilor ALLAN BUTCH T. FRANCISCO.  
Co-Introduced by Councilors Anthony Peter D. Crisologo, Lena Marie P. Juico, Elizabeth A. Delarmente, Victor V. Ferrer, Jr., Oliviere T. Belmonte, Alexis R. Herrera, Precious Hipolito Castelo, Voltaire Godofredo L. Liban III, Ramon P. Medalla, Estrella C. Valmocina, Roderick M. Paulate, Allan Benedict S. Reyes, Gian Carlo G. Sotto, Kate Abigail G. Coseteng, Jose Mario Don S. De Leon, Franz S. Pumaren, Eufemio C. Lagumbay, Marvin C. Rillo, Raquel S. Malañgen, Irene R. Belmonte, Ivy Xenia L. Lagman, Marra C. Suntay, Jose A. Visaya, Karl Edgar C. Castelo, Julienne Alyson Rae V. Medalla, Godofredo T. Liban II, Marivic Co-Pilar, Melencio "Bobby" T. Castelo, Jr., Rogelio "Roger" P. Juan, Diorella Maria G. Sotto, Donato C. Matias, Eric Z. Medina and Ricardo B. Corpuz.

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*WHEREAS, it cannot be denied that the perceived slow pace of judicial adjudication is one of the chronic problems in our country and it is the most persistent criticism we hear in our judicial system;*

*WHEREAS, studies showed that there are huge number of cases pending in courts especially in the urban areas where 75 million of the population is concentrated. Many courts in these cities have 1,000 or more cases in their dockets and through the years, they keep on piling up higher and higher instead of dwindling down;*

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WHEREAS, according to reports, the problem is due to lack of resources and the judicial structure itself. This is a confluence of several factors – from the judicial system that adheres to the constitutional mandate of according due process to insufficiency of resources. In addition to this, absent defense and prosecution witnesses, burdened prosecutors, overzealous lawyers, dilatory litigants and even the slow postal system our courts still use;

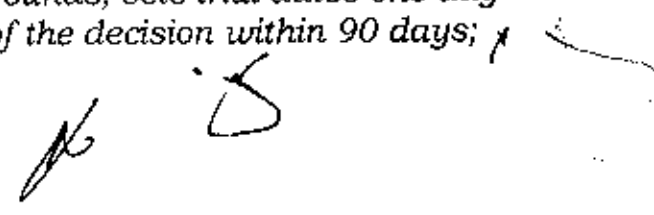
WHEREAS, the Supreme Court, in 2012 under the leadership of Chief Justice Maria Lourdes P. A. Sereno, has decided to focus its attention on these causes of delays. The SC approved for pilot testing the Quezon City Practice Guidelines that limited the kinds of pleadings that can be filed, prohibit dilatory motions, and observed time frames. As a result of this pilot testing, it cut down the length of time a case is tried – from 523 days to 194 days in civil cases;

WHEREAS, also in 2012, the Court approved the Judicial Affidavit Rule, which resulted in reducing the time for presenting the testimonies of witnesses by about two-thirds in Quezon City, where the program was initially launched;

WHEREAS, Quezon City was also a pilot area in the implementation of electronic court (ecourts). ecourts is a case management system that records all incidents in an IT (information technology) that shows the age of each case, notifies judges of deliverables and deadlines, provides them with templates of orders and decisions to fast track their work. Moreover, they can issue order immediately after hearing and ultimately dramatically reduce case backlog;

WHEREAS, In 2013, a Decongestion Program called the Hustisyeh was piloted, again, in Quezon City and is bearing fruit. After 14 months of implementation, the dockets of the Quezon City pilot courts dropped by an astounding 30 percent. Following the success in Quezon City, the program was rolled out in Makati, Pasig, Angeles, Cebu and Davao where, as of June, 2016, 15,227 cases equivalent to 36 percent of the targeted docket, have been disposed of;

WHEREAS, complementing these programs to speed up court proceedings, the Supreme Court implemented the Continuous Trial Guidelines by pilot testing in 52 regional trial courts and 6 metropolitan trial courts in Quezon City, Manila, Makati, Pasig, Pasay, Parañaque, Muntinlupa and Marikina. The program prohibits postponement unless on exceptional grounds, sets trial dates one day apart, and requires the promulgation of the decision within 90 days;




WHEREAS, because of the advanced stage of reform implementation in Quezon City, it also became inevitably as the first Justice Zone, another milestone, indeed, for Quezon City. And with these remarkable pilot experiences in the city, the systems will now be ready for wider implementation and will speed up the trial process and eventually the fast tracking in the administration of justice;

WHEREAS, it is only but fitting that the judicial reforms initiated by the Supreme Court of the Philippines headed by Chief Justice Maria Lourdes P. A. Sereno shall be celebrated and given cognizant, as it seeks to affirm the judicious settlement of cases which were all piloted in this premier city of Quezon.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF QUEZON CITY IN REGULAR SESSION ASSEMBLED, to congratulate and express, as it does hereby congratulate and express the full support of the Quezon City Government to the Supreme Court of the Philippines headed by Chief Justice Maria Lourdes P. A. Sereno in light of the judicial reforms pilot tested in Quezon City which resulted to a remarkable speedy adjudication of cases.

ADOPTED: July 17, 2017.


  
MA. JOSEFINA G. BELMONTE  
Vice Mayor  
Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:

  
Atty. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS III  
City Gov't. Asst. Dept. Head III

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this Resolution was APPROVED by the City Council on Second Reading on July 17, 2017 and was CONFIRMED on August 7, 2017.

  
Atty. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS III  
City Gov't. Asst. Dept. Head III

