

PR 21 00 - 145-A

28 AUG 2019  
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Republic of the Philippines  
21<sup>th</sup> CITY COUNCIL  
QUEZON CITY

Proposed Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE RENAMING OF THE LA MESA ECOPARK IN FAIRVIEW, DISTRICT 5, QUEZON CITY TO THE "GINA LOPEZ ECOPARK."**

Introduced by Councilor EDEN DELILAH "CANDY" A. MEDINA

**WHEREAS**, the late Regina Paz "Gina" Lopez played a key role in the rehabilitation of the La Mesa Reservation and Ecopark. Aside from her direct connection to the Ecopark, she dedicated her life to protecting the environment, as well as the poor and underprivileged.

**WHEREAS**, Gina Lopez was the daughter of ABS-CBN Chairman Emeritus Eugenio Lopez, Jr. and the sister of current ABS-CBN Chairman Eugenio López III. She left her privileged life in Manila and became a yoga missionary for twenty dedicated years, and lived in Portugal, India, and Africa. She met her future husband in Africa with whom she had two sons. She became an Ananda Marga yoga missionary who taught yoga, and ran pre-primary schools and children's homes for the underprivileged. She lived among the people in slum areas of Africa guided by the maxim "Service to humanity is service to God".

**WHEREAS**, when she returned to the Philippines, she initiated corporate social responsibility programs for the environment and Filipino communities. She later became the Managing Director of the ABS-CBN Foundation.

**WHEREAS**, she initiated *Bantay Bata 163*, the country's first media-based hotline. In 1997, *Bantay Bata* was given the honor of being the United Nations Grand Awardee for Excellence, besting 187 countries all over the world.

**WHEREAS**, Gina Lopez likewise established *Bantay Kalikasan*, for which she received the 1997 International Public Relations Award of Excellence for the Environment and Outstanding Manilans Award for the Environment, 2009. Through *Bantay Kalikasan*, Lopez championed the rehabilitation of the 2,700-hectare La Mesa Watershed Reservation. This would later lead to the establishment of 33-hectare La Mesa Ecopark within the reservation. She also helped create other worthwhile environmental initiatives like *Bantay-Usok* and *Bantay-Bateria*.

**WHEREAS**, in 2010, Gina Lopez was appointed head of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission. Her work with other agencies involved relocating informal settlers, which helped rehabilitate the tributaries of the Pasig River. The clean-up eventually allowed the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to revive its Pasig River ferry service.

**WHEREAS**, Gina Lopez was also a respected advocate in the anti-irresponsible mining movement. Her work to save Palawan from irresponsible mining caught the attention of many, including current President Rodrigo Duterte. The President subsequently invited Lopez to be the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

**WHEREAS**, as DENR Secretary, she continued her crusade against irresponsible mining and lobbied for the rights of the indigenous people. She established a DENR hotline that created a way for the public to address their issues to the government office.

**WHEREAS**, after her tenure with the DENR, she continued to spread the gospel of environmentalism through various channels including her popular TV show "G Diaries."

**WHEREAS**, concerned citizens and environmentalist groups have called upon members of the Quezon City Council to recognize Gina Lopez' exceptional service to the country by renaming the La Mesa Ecopark in her honor.

**WHEREAS**, Presidential Proclamation No. 1336, s. 2007 delegates oversight and policy making over the La Mesa Watershed Reservation, which includes the Ecopark, to the La Mesa Watershed Multi-Sectoral Management Council (LMWMMC). Subsequently, DENR-MWSS Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2009-01 established and defined the LMWMMC;

**WHEREAS**, the renaming of the Ecopark shall instill in the public the love of nature that Gina Lopez embodied through her lifelong advocacies.

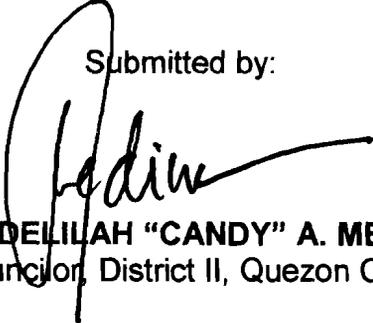
**NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF QUEZON CITY IN REGULAR SESSION ASSEMBLED:**

The Quezon City Council hereby urges the LMWMMC, or any other appropriately empowered authority, to rename the La Mesa Ecopark in Fairview, District 5, Quezon City, to the Gina Lopez Ecopark. If the Ecopark is so renamed, the Quezon City Council solemnly resolves to cause the installation of a memorial arc in the Ecopark with its new name.

**ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by:

  
**EDEN DELILAH "CANDY" A. MEDINA**  
Councilor, District II, Quezon City

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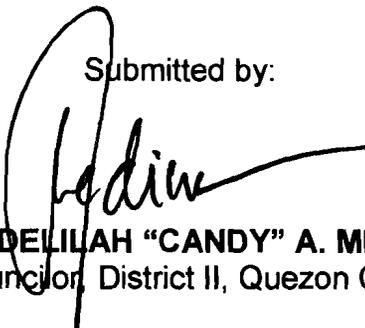
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