Republic of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City, Metro Manila  

Eighteenth Congress  
Third Regular Session  

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2306

Introduced by Representatives Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco, Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, and Joseph Stephen “Caraps” S. Paduano

RESOLUTION


WHEREAS, on October 9, 2021, Honorable Jose Luis Martin C. Gascon passed away at the age of 57;

WHEREAS, Honorable Gascon was born on May 26, 1964 in Iloilo City to parents, Ramon Rojas Gascon and Cecilia Cosgayon Gascon;

WHEREAS, “Chito” to his friends, relatives and colleagues, Honorable Gascon finished his primary and secondary education at the Don Bosco Makati; obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy in 1988 and Bachelor of Laws in 1996, from the University of the Philippines; and earned his Master of Laws degree in 1997 from St. Edmund’s College, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom;

WHEREAS, Honorable Gascon held the distinction of being the youngest Member of the 1986 Constitutional Commission;

WHEREAS, during the Eighth Congress, he served as the Representative of the Youth Sector in the House of Representatives from September 3, 1990 until June 1992;

WHEREAS, as Member of the House of Representatives, Honorable Gascon co-authored several significant national laws including Republic Act (RA) No. 7610, otherwise known as the “Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act”; RA 7160, otherwise known as the “Local Government Code of 1991,” which institutionalized youth participation in local government through the establishment of the Sangguniang Kabataan; RA 7431, otherwise known as the “Radiologic Technology Act of
WHEREAS, in June 2015, he was appointed as chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights where he provided leadership and policy direction to 700 staff members across the entire archipelago, undertaking human rights protection, promotion, and policy advisory functions, and representing the Asia-Pacific Region in the Sub-Committee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions;

WHEREAS, the remarkable leadership of Honorable Gascon in the Commission on Human Rights has inspired its personnel to always serve with genuine compassion or “Serbisyon may Malasakit,” utmost integrity, and excellence, impressing upon fellow human rights workers the impact and value of the efforts of the Commission of Human Rights to respect the rule of law, democracy, and equality;

WHEREAS, prior to his appointment in the Commission on Human Rights, Honorable Gascon also served as executive director of the National Institute for Policy Studies; undersecretary for Legal and Legislative and Special Concerns of the Department of Education; executive director of LIBERTAS, a public interest law group, composed of reform-oriented law professionals working on human rights, access to justice, transparency, accountability and justice sector reform; undersecretary on Political Affairs, Office of the President, where he focused on human rights and conflict resolution, and actively involved in peace negotiations with the Communist Party of the Philippines - National Peoples' Army, the Moro National Liberation Front, and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front; and member of the Human Rights Victims' Claims Board, with a rank equivalent to a Justice of the Court of Appeals, tasked to receive and evaluate claims for recognition and reparation of victims of human rights violations;

WHEREAS, with his continuing reform advocacies in the areas of human rights, peace and conflict transformation, and state building in the context of democratic transitions, Honorable Gascon earned several fellowships and recognitions which include the Benigno S. Aquino Fellowship for Public Service, jointly awarded by President Corazon C. Aquino and the United States Embassy in the Philippines in 2001; first Filipino recipient of the Democracy and Development Fellowship from Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law, at Stanford University in 2005; Reagan–Fascell Democracy Fellowship at the International Forum for Democratic Studies of the National Endowment for Democracy in 2007; Asian Public Intellectual Fellowship, jointly awarded by the International House of Japan and the Japan Foundation in 2007; and Summer Certificate Program on International Human Rights Law in Strasbourg France, awarded by the International Institute for Human Rights in 1997;

WHEREAS, Honorable Chito Gascon is survived by his wife, Melissa M. Gascon; their only daughter, Ciara Sophia; his mother, Cecilia Cosgayon Gascon; and younger siblings, Miguel Rene C. Gascon, Maria Lucia “Chim” Gascon-Jimenez, and Rafael C. Gascon;
WHEREAS, Honorable Gascon was a true, competent, incorruptible, decent, principled, and prayerful servant leader, who fiercely fought for human rights and stood fearlessly against those who violated them;

WHEREAS, the demise of Honorable Jose Luis Martin “Chito” C. Gascon is a tremendous loss to his family, friends, colleagues, and to the people whose lives he touched and whose respect he earned, but he will always be remembered for his inspiring legacy of “optimism in the fight for every human right”: Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, To express its profound condolences to the family of the Honorable Jose Luis Martin C. Gascon, former Representative of the Youth Sector of the House Representatives during the Eighth Congress, Member of the 1986 Constitutional Commission, and the incumbent chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights.

RESOLVED, FURTHER, That a copy of this Resolution be furnished the bereaved family.

Adopted,

LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO

JOSEPH STEPHEN “CARAPS” S. PADUANO  FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ