

Resolution No. 2016-02

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**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF THE MANIFESTO ON THE  
BURIAL OF FERDINAND MARCOS AT THE LIBINGAN NG MGA BAYANI**

A resolution for the release of the Manifesto against the burial of Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Whereas, the Legislative Assembly is the highest policy-making body of the University Student Government (University Student Government Constitution, Article XIV, Section 1);

Whereas, the USG shall have the power of which emanates from the student body. It shall be the sole, unified, autonomous and democratic representative body of the students (University Student Government Constitution, Article III, Section 1);

Whereas, every student shall participate actively in civic affairs and in the promotion of the general welfare, particularly in the social, economic and cultural development of his/her community and in the attainment of a just, compassionate and orderly society (University Student Government constitution, Article V, Section 6);

Whereas, the USG is founded on the principles of representation, participatory democracy, decentralization, collaboration, equitability, accountability, unity and cooperation and efficiency and efficacy in the delivery of services (University Government Constitution, Article III, Section 3);

Whereas, the duties and responsibilities of a Legislative Assembly Representatives includes conducting regular consultations with his/her constituents regarding academic and non-academic matters (Appendix B) (Legislative Assembly Manual, Article III, Section 2.3);

Whereas, the National Affairs Committee shall discuss national and sectoral issues and present recommendations on such to the Legislative Assembly (University Student Government Constitution, Article V, Section 11);

Whereas, the Legislative Assembly reinvigorate our formation as Lasallians who secure harmony, unity and cooperation among ourselves and with those who, together with us, make up the Lasallian community of persons, scholars, learners and citizens, commit to the advancement and defense of our rights and welfare, safeguard the academic freedom and integrity of the University, affirm the student-citizen's dignity and worth, promote the common good, actualize our roles as propagandists and catalysts for social change and action, inculcate a social consciousness that will strike a balance between self and service to others, healthy competition and cooperation, privilege and responsibility and embody our libertarian ideals, nationalist aspirations and noble vision of a humane and sovereign society where truth, justice, freedom, love, equality and peace reign (University Student Government Constitution, Preamble);

Whereas, President Rodrigo Duterte declared during his campaign visit in Ilocos Norte that he would allow the burial of Former President Ferdinand Marcos in the Libingan ng mga Bayani (Ranada, 2016);

Whereas, due to the various petitions against the Burial, a 20-day status quo ante order was handed down by the Supreme Court on August 2013, 2016 (Reformina, 2016);

Whereas, the status quo order which was supposed to lapse on September 12, 2016 was postponed to October 18, 2016 under the decision of the Supreme Court (Alimario, 2016);

Wherefore, be it resolved that this manifesto (See Appendix A) be presented, and approved by the Legislative Assembly;

Wherefore, be it further resolved that this manifesto be approved and posted on the LA PIO social media accounts as De La Salle University's sentiments in;

Wherefore, be it finally resolved that this manifesto be approved and forwarded to the Office of the President.

Adopted, September 19, 2016

## Appendix A

### **MANIFESTO ON THE BURIAL OF FERDINAND MARCOS AT THE LIBINGAN NG MGA BAYANI**

More than 30 years has passed since Martial Law under the Marcos family has ended, leaving their mark with 10 Billion Dollars looted from public funds, 3257 deaths, 35 000 torture victims, and 70 000 convicted, all considered as extrajudicial and horrendous in the eyes of the global community.

We the students of De La Salle University – Manila condemn in the strongest possible terms the intended burial of Former President Ferdinand E. Marcos at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani. We strongly reject the idea that this will bring National Healing and will be the catalyst for National Unity. We do not only strongly condemn the heinous and unforgivable crimes committed by President Marcos, but we also firmly believe that the continuous quest for justice should not be put into contempt by recognizing Mr. Marcos as a hero and burying his remains at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

When in the life of a Nation, it becomes possible for one of her sons to stand as her oppressor, it is incumbent upon all her children to save her and ensure it never happens again. Such were the actions of President Marcos and thus, our duty today. Countless Courts, both home and abroad, have taken judicial notice of the several atrocities Filipinos suffered under the hand of Marcos and in many instances it has led to convictions. In fact, these atrocities have already matured into Legislative Facts, guiding Congress in enacting reparations for Martial Law victims.

As the Nation faces an attempt by the family, emboldened by a Political Promise made by the President, to grant President Marcos the same honor as those who spent their lives defending the Country, let the following facts be re-stated to a Nation beginning to forget:

President Marcos is responsible for the death of so many citizens who dared to speak against him. It is a truism in democracy, that a government is built on the just consent of the governed. President Marcos' actions clearly disrespect this. At the very least, the President created the environment for the brutality and irresponsibility of the Armed Forces as well as the Metropolitan Command. His criminal negligence prevented him from acting on the countless reports of extrajudicial deaths, abductions, tortures and police brutality that so often involved those who dared speak against him. In the face of all the evidence that has surfaced from the time he declared martial law up until his death he has never made a single attempt to do so little as to recognize these crimes. Nor has his family done so for him, instead proudly touting the Marcos Years as the Golden Age of this Country.

President Marcos severely weakened the institutions of government, reducing the Legislative and Judicial Bodies to mere puppets meant to legitimize his dictatorship. As soon as he declared Martial Law he closed down Congress and sent multiple officers to arrest those who posed a threat to him. Among the first victims were erudite Senators and Media workers who bravely spoke against his excesses, namely: Senators Benigno S. Aquino Jr., Jose Diokno, Francisco Rodrigo and Ramon Mitra

Jr.; Joaquin Roces, Teodoro Locsin Sr., Maximo Soliven and Amando Doronila. In the following years he filled government positions with his cronies and went so far as to deliberately bribe delegates to a constitutional convention he created to change the Nation's Charter.

President Marcos pillaged the national treasury, amassing a fortune out of taxpayer's money. Several court cases would show that the Marcoses have funneled funds from the treasury into their personal accounts. Despite the success of the PCGG, the body has only but scratched the surface of the Marcos loot. Convictions in both Swiss and Singaporean courts attest to this fact and today, many Filipinos still wait for the wealth that was forcibly seized from them.

President Marcos brazenly lied about his War Medals, exaggerating his true role in the War. Of the numerous medals he claims is evidence of his heroic virtue, several were found to be participation ribbons, given to anyone who was in service during the war, regardless of the role played. Some of them are without documentary evidence while some were found to be awarded to him several years after the War, by no less than himself.

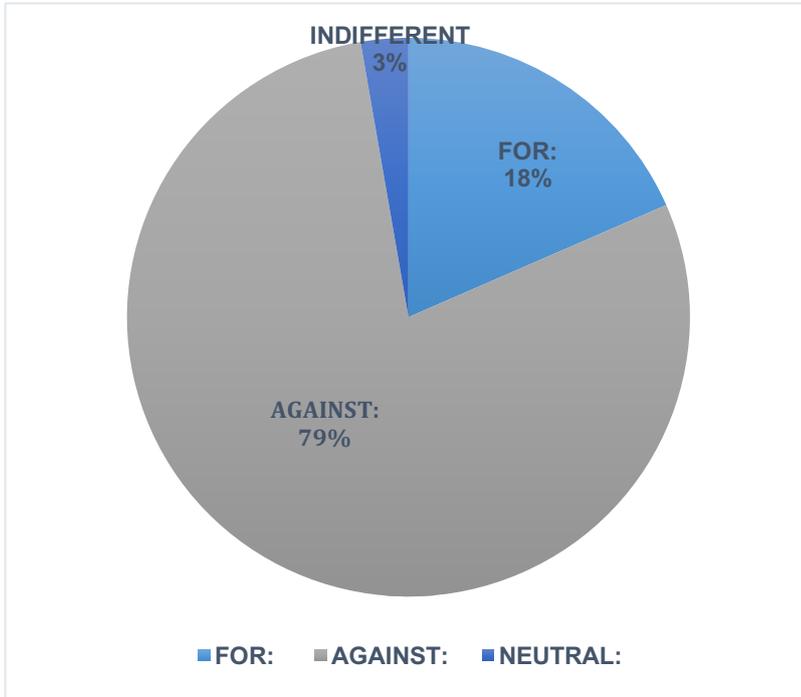
These are facts that brought millions of Filipinos to rise bravely against the regime until he was forced out of office in 1986. The efforts culminated in the creation of a new constitution that created so many safeguards to ensure that we would never see another Marcos. The heroism of his victims have received judicial and legislative recognition.

Consequently, they have been awarded reparations by a grateful Nation. We firmly believe that the reparations cannot be simply monetary in nature. The heinous crimes committed by President Marcos should not be hailed as a dutiful act for the country and must never be considered heroic in any manner. Billions have been stolen, countless lives have been lost and families have suffered under the hands of his administration. So a grave an injustice requires perpetual memory of their suffering and indeed the constant affirmation that their sacrifices were not meaningless. To bury the Dictator in the Libingan does the exact opposite. Burying his remains in the Libingan will be equivalent to recognizing his heinous crimes as a form of triumph for the Filipino people. It shows the victims how a nation honors the man responsible for their suffering.

In ensuring that the leaders of tomorrow will not repeat the horrors of yesterday, it is our duty to remind our countrymen of the dangers of corruption. We seek justice for the victims of Martial Law, and we can only achieve justice if we first start to recognize that gross human rights violations were violated during the regime of President Marcos. This will never happen if we give him the honor of being recognized as one with our fallen heroes. To bury the man in the Libingan would create one of life's biggest ironies – that after a man has done so much to kill, plunder and bitterly divide a nation, the same state would proceed to honor him in a place reserved for heroes.

## Appendix B

### RESULTS ON THE CONDUCTED UNIVERSITY SURVEY BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



**RESPONDENTS: 917**

AGAINST:	723
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FOR:	169
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INDIFFERENT:	25
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