



19 May 2011

MBC OPPOSES MARCOS BURIAL AT THE LIBINGAN NG MGA BAYANI

House Resolution No. 1135, which urges the Aquino administration to let the Libingan ng mga Bayani be the final resting place of the former President Ferdinand Marcos, exemplifies historical revisionism at its deceitful worst in an attempt to recast the image of a disgraced leader.

We especially take exception to HR 1135's statements that "as the longest-serving president of the republic, Ferdinand Marcos built the modern foundations of the Philippines" and that he "remained a Filipino patriot to the end of his life and in death deserves to be honored as such."

Mr. Marcos was the longest-serving president only because he placed the country under martial law in 1972, less than a year before he would have been mandated by the Constitution to give up his seat. He did not call for a presidential election until 1981—a sham political exercise meant to bolster his democratic pretensions. It was only due to the intense political pressure that had built up after the assassination of Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. in 1983 that he was forced to call another presidential election in 1986. He tried to steal that vote as well, but the true will of the people could no longer be suppressed and he was driven out of power by a peaceful popular uprising.

The claim that he built "the modern foundations of the Philippines" is a gross distortion of the late dictator's true legacy of autocracy, ruined democratic institutions, violent political repression, unprecedented wholesale corruption, shameless nepotism, crony capitalism, a crushing debt burden, and widespread social inequity and marginalization. In the business sector, we particularly remember the near bankruptcy of the government and the need for a moratorium on debt payments because of the burden of unpaid crony loans and the gross mismanagement of the economy in general. Our country struggled with the payments for those onerous loans long after Mr. Marcos had been deposed.

In the end, titles and medals—especially those of dubious provenance—do not a hero make. No hero would deliberately bring suffering upon his people and ruin to his country. For these reasons, the Makati Business Club believes that, by virtue of his profoundly tainted record as the leader of our country, Mr. Marcos forfeited whatever rights he had to being buried at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani. We join other organizations in expressing our strong opposition to House Resolution No. 1135.

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