



Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats

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18 March 2016

Hon. Joseph Emilio “Jun” Abaya

Secretary (Minister)

Department of Transportation and Communication

Acting President, Liberal Party of the Philippines

Dear Sec. Abaya:

We, your liberal family in Asia, extend our deepest sympathies to the Liberal Party of the Philippines and to family of former Senate President Jovito Salonga - an esteemed statesman, an exemplary public servant, and a true liberal in both ideals and action. We have heard and read a lot about Senate President Salonga’s struggles and victories, and we commend him for his genuine love and sacrifice for the Philippines, which undoubtedly uplifted your nation’s pride, dignity, and honour.

We remember Senate President Salonga in 2010 when he addressed the CALD Conference on the occasion of the inauguration of Philippine President Benigno Aquino III in Manila. He said, “Nobody grows old by living a number of years. People grow old by deserting their ideals. Years may wrinkle their skin, but to give up interest wrinkles the soul.” We shall hold dearly the ideals he fought for and the hope he embodied for the country.

We stand with the Liberal Party of the Philippines in honouring a liberal stalwart, a leader who showcased brilliance and dedication in the party and in the Senate of the Philippines. We honour the man who fought the dictatorship, who upheld the rule of law, and who remained faithfully committed to the promise of democracy. He was, and will remain to be, a guiding light to many of us who are still struggling for democracy in Asia.

Sincerely yours,

Oyun Sanjaasuren, MP

Chairperson, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats