

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 720



Introduced by Rep. VINCENT FRANCO "DUKE" D. FRASCO

**A RESOLUTION
CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING DR. POTENCIANO "YONG" S.
LARRAZABAL III FOR BEING THE FIRST FILIPINO TO CONQUER THE
WORLD MARATHON CHALLENGE HELD LAST FEBRUARY 06 TO 12, 2020
(7 MARATHONS ON 7 CONTINENTS IN 7 DAYS)**

WHEREAS, Section 19, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league competitions, and amateur sports, including training for international competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork, and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry;

WHEREAS, the World Marathon Challenge is a logistical and physical challenge to run seven marathons on seven continents in seven days. Competitors must run the standard 42.2-kilometer marathon distance in Antarctica, Africa, Asia, Europe, Oceania, South America and North America within 168 hours or 7 days. The clock starts when the first marathon begins in Antarctica;

WHEREAS, since its inception in the year 2015, only 152 men and women from all around the world have finished the said challenge;

WHEREAS, renowned eye surgeon Dr. Potenciano "Yong" S. Larazabal III is a veteran runner and a native of Cebu, who first stamped his mark in the running circuit in 2018 when he received a Six Star Finisher medal from the Abbot World Marathon Majors for completing six of the world's largest road races – the New York City, Berlin, Chicago, London, Tokyo, and Boston marathons;

WHEREAS, Dr. Larrazabal is a practicing ophthalmologist by profession, and is the head ophthalmologist and laser eye surgeon of Cebu City's Larrazabal Eye Clinic. He is also currently the President of the Central Visayas Society of Ophthalmology, the Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology in Cebu Doctors' University, and the

Corporate Secretary of the Cebu Doctors Group of Hospitals and University. He is also a loving husband and father to three (3) children;

WHEREAS, on February 06 to 12, 2020, Dr. Larrazabal and the rest of the competitors ran the standard 42.2-kilometer marathon distance in the continents of Antarctica, Africa (Capetown), Oceania (Perth, Australia), Asia (Dubai, United Arab Emirates), Europe (Formula One Race Track in Madrid, Spain), South America (Fortaleza, Brazil), and North America (Miami, Florida) within 168 hours, or seven days;

WHEREAS, Dr. Larrazabal had to endure extreme conditions, such as -20 degree Celsius temperatures combined with 50 km/h winds in Antarctica. Adding to it was darkness for almost four (4) hours to make it frigid for him;

WHEREAS, going the full circle of his storied marathon career, Dr. Larrazabal made history as the first Filipino marathoner to conquer the World Marathon Challenge, since its first staging in 2015; and

WHEREAS, in light of this celebration and inspiring moment for our country, the victory of Dr. Yong Larrazabal is commendable and deserves our utmost recognition by our nation;

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that taking into consideration the abovementioned facts, the undersigned hereby **RESOLVES** to congratulate and commend Dr. Yong Larrazabal for being the first Filipino to conquer the World Marathon Challenge (7 marathons on 7 continents in 7 days).

Adopted,



VINCENT FRANCO "DUKE" D. FRASCO