



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
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Journal

SESSION NO. 28

Monday, October 3, 2016

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

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CALL TO ORDER

At 3:18 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Sen. Leila M. De Lima led the prayer, to wit:

Let us all remember that we are always in the Holy presence of our Lord:

In light of the immense challenges that our nation faces today, one passage from the Bible comes to mind. According to Matthew 22:36-40, Jesus Christ was asked by a Pharisee: “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

God, our Father, it is clear: You have taught us that it is our responsibility to love one another, and that we should be mindful of the welfare of others, regardless of who they are, where they come from.

Sa harap man ng matitinding pagsubok, lagi sanang mangibabaw ang Inyong diwa sa aming puso at isipan – lalo na sa aming mga pinuno na pinagkatiwalaan ng mamamayan na sila ay paglingkuran. Nawa’y unawain po namin ang pinagdaraanang aming kapwa; igalang ang kanilang karapatan, bigyang halaga ang buhay ng tao, at huwag magbulag-bulagan sa katotohanan.

Alam po namin na hindi Mo kami bibigyan ng pagsubok na hindi namin kayang lampasan. Patuloy po sana Ninyong gabayan ang aming bansa at patnubayan kami tungo sa tunay na makatarungan, makatao, at higit sa lahat, maka-Diyos na lipunan.

Idinudulog namin ito sa Ngalan ng Panginoong Hesukristo, Amen.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The UP Madrigal Singers (Philippine Madrigal Singers) led the singing of the national anthem and thereafter rendered the songs “*Lux Aeterna*” and “*Ikaw*.”



MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR SOTTO

Senator Sotto informed the Body that the UP Madrigal Singers (Philippine Madrigal Singers) headed by Mr. Mark Anthony Carpio, choirmaster, and Ms. Pearl Reyes, company manager, won the grand prize and multiple awards in various categories of the 64th Polyphonic International Competition Guido d'Arezzo held in Italy, August 26, 2016.

ROLL CALL

Upon direction of the Senate President, the Secretary of the Senate, Atty. Lutgardo B. Barbo, called the roll, to which the following senators responded:

Angara, S.	Lacson, P. M.
Aquino, P. B. IV B.	Legarda, L.
Binay, M. L. N. S.	Pacquiao, E. M. D.
Cayetano, A. P. C. S.	Pangilinan, F. N.
De Lima, L. M.	Pimentel III, A. K.
Drilon, F. M.	Poe, G.
Ejercito, J. V. G.	Recto, R. G.
Escudero, F. J. G.	Sotto III, V. C.
Gatchalian, W.	Trillanes IV, A. F.
Gordon, R. J.	Villanueva, J.
Honasan, G. B.	Villar, C.
Hontiveros, R.	Zubiri, J. M.

With 24 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session No. 27 (September 28, 2016) and considered it approved.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

At this juncture, Senator Sotto acknowledged the presence in the gallery of the following guests:

- Legal Management students of the University of the East, Manila;
- BS Social Work students from the Universidad de Manila, headed by Augusta Altobar, chairperson of the Social Work Department;

- Students from the UP College of Human Ecology, UP Los Baños, headed by Professors Carla Jimena, Clarice Pulumbarit and Cris Malenab;
- Theo Dussart, exchange student from France; and
- Mayor Jonathan Ramandaban of Tabango, Leyte, Maricor Ramandaban, Board Member, 3rd District, Leyte, and Engr. Bong Archeta.

Senate President Pimentel welcomed the guests to the Senate.

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 179

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 179, entitled

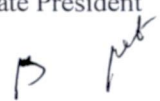
RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO, FORMER SENATOR (1995-2001 AND 2004-2016), FORMER JUDGE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT, FORMER SECRETARY OF AGRARIAN REFORM, FORMER COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION AND DEPORTATION, FORMER PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE QUEZON CITY REGIONAL TRIAL COURT, LAW EXPERT, AND AUTHOR,

taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution Nos. 181 and 182.

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the Rules of the Senate, with the permission of the Body, upon motion of Senator Sotto, only the titles of the resolutions were read without prejudice to the insertion of their full texts into the Record of the Senate.

At this juncture, Senate President Pimentel relinquished the Chair to Senate President Pro Tempore Drilon.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senate President Pimentel for the sponsorship.



SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATE PRESIDENT PIMENTEL

In honoring the late Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, Senate President Pimentel delivered the following sponsorship speech on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 179, to wit:

As a student of law, I deem it a privilege to sponsor this resolution in honor of the best teacher we have ever had, the Honorable Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, a distinguished member of the Senate (1995-2001 and 2004-2016), former Judge of the International Criminal Court, former Secretary of Agrarian Reform, former Commissioner of the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation, former presiding Judge of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court, a constitutional and international law expert and a renowned book author.

Senator Santiago, who was then the Immigration Commissioner, was my professor in constitutional law at the UP College of Law. As a student, Ma'am Miriam challenged us to do our best because she wanted us to be our best and because we were learning from one of the best minds the Philippines ever had.

Any student can take inspiration from Senator Santiago's love for learning as shown by her impressive academic credentials. You can just imagine how pressured we were to measure up to such a formidable professor.

I can barely name anyone who had been educated in prestigious universities here and abroad as much as Senator Santiago, who obtained the following degrees: Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, University of the Philippines, Visayas, *magna cum laude*; Bachelor of Laws, University of the Philippines, *cum laude* — It was during her stay in the UP Law that she received several awards as Best Debater, a recipient of the Vinzons Achievement Award for Excellence in Leadership and the first female editor-in-chief of the *Philippine Collegian*, the official student publication of UP Diliman; Master of Laws and Doctor of the Science of Law, University of Michigan; and Master of Arts in Religious Studies, Maryhill School of Theology.

Senator Miriam also pursued post-doctoral studies in various countries in Asia, Australia, Europe and the United States of America and was conferred honorary doctorates from different Philippine universities. Indeed, she is one woman who never rested on her laurels.

Years after graduation from law school, our

paths crossed again when we became colleagues in the Senate. Listening intently to all her speeches especially those on constitutional law and international law, I realized how much of a student I still am. Senator Miriam was so versatile and so involved in a variety of subjects affecting our country that she is credited to have filed the most number of bills and resolutions at a record of 1,671.

Senator Miriam was instrumental in the enactment of the following landmark legislations: the Reproductive Health Act; the Sin Tax Act, the Climate Change Act; the Renewable Energy Act; the Philippine Act on Crimes Against International Humanitarian Law; the Magna Carta of Women; the Unified Students Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST) Law; the Cybercrime Act of 2012; the Department of Information and Communications Technology Act; and the Archipelagic Base Lines Act, among others.

As chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Relations, Senator Miriam successfully defended and secured Senate concurrence in the ratification of the following international treaties: the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA); the ASEAN Charter Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties with Spain, Korea and the ASEAN; the Avoidance of Double Taxation Treaties with New Zealand, Japan, the United Arab Emirates (UAE); the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) Headquarters Agreement; the United Nations Convention Against Corruption; and the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

When Senator Miriam passed away on September 29, 2016, at the age of 71, many said that the Philippines lost its fieriest debater and interpellator. But the loss is not ours alone, the loss is shared by the three branches of government that she served with hard work and dedication. The loss is felt by the youth in whom she left her greatest mark through her advocacies and authored laws, not to mention her witty jokes and pick-up lines. The loss belongs to her bereaved family and to the whole nation.

Today, we remember our colleague, Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, whose life is decorated with decades of excellence and if we need proof, it is the list of the numerous prestigious awards for excellence conferred upon her, some of which are: The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) Award for Law in 1985; The Outstanding Women in Nation Service (TOWNS) Award for Law in 1986; Magsaysay Award for government service for her courage in fighting corruption in govern-

ment; Most Outstanding Alumna in Law from the University of the Philippines in 1988; Gold Mission Triangle Award for Government Service, YMCA 1988; Republic Anniversary Award for Law Enforcement, Civic Assembly of Women of the Philippines, 1988; Golden Jubilee Award for public service, Girls Scout of the Philippines, 1990; Celebrity Mother Award, Gintong Ina Awards Foundation, 1991; Grand Cross of the Order of Civil Merit given by Spain in 2001; Philippine Judges Hall of Fame, Philippine Judges Association in 2015; and the UP Women Lawyers Circle Inc. Distinguished Icon of Legal Excellence and Public Service Awards for 2016.

Worldwide, Senator Miriam was known as the "Incorruptible Lady," the "Platinum and Tiger Lady" and the "Tiger of Asia."

We all differ in how we want to remember Senator Santiago. As her former student, I choose to immortalize her by the lessons I have learned from her life and example, and it would be that "Diligence, Intelligence, Articulateness, Involvement and Courage lead to relevance in our people's lives and their eternal remembrance of your life's works."

So, thank you, Teacher-Senator Miriam, for what you have done for us, your students, your colleagues in the Senate, and your countrymen.

Maraming salamat po.

Thank you to my colleagues in the Senate for the time you have given me.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

With the permission of the Body, the Chair suspended the session.

It was 3:42 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:43 p.m., the session was resumed.

COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR ZUBIRI

As cosponsor of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 179, Senator Zubiri relived the moments he spent with Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago during the campaign period in 2013 where she volunteered to endorse his candidacy and the time they were together at the Senate of the Philippines.

The full text of Senator Zubiri's sponsorship speech follows:

Like you, our colleagues, and the rest of the nation, I received the news of Senator Miriam's passing with disbelief, followed by a rush of sadness. It is difficult to imagine her any different from the strong, fierce, indomitable lady she was throughout her life, whether in and out of the public eye.

We feel it strongly when we meet a grand lady. That is what happened to me when I first met the feisty and truly honorable Miriam Defensor Santiago in the Senate. She made the Senate a hall of greatness and respectability.

She had always been popular as a brilliant and bold lawyer who made a name for herself in her alma mater by earning a flat 1. By that alone, she was already awe-inspiring. I was proud that I shared her Ilonggo roots.

We know her well by her assertive principled voice. That voice talked of complex issues that she dissected and clarified for colleagues and for the "masa" equally.

She was the epitome of women empowerment, a trailblazer in the legal profession and government service which were traditionally perceived as the domain of males. She held the distinguished accomplishment of being one of the few public officials who rendered full and meaningful service in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government.

Perhaps, she will be remembered best for her three terms of service in the Senate, being instrumental in the passage of landmark laws such as the Magna Carta of Women, the Philippine Act on Crimes Against International Humanitarian Law, Archipelagic Baseline Law, Climate Change Act, the Renewable Energy Law, among countless others.

She famously said that she "ate death threats for breakfast," which is by the way one of my favorite quotes from her. She said that because she was subjective, fair and straight, and regardless of which branch of government she served her leadership was fearless, and her honesty and integrity were unquestionable and she was incorruptible.

I remember her fondly for welcoming me warmly in the Senate which was special for me being a non-lawyer. It meant so much that she did not treat me as a despicable humongous fungus that she would sometimes joke with other colleagues of ours. I thank her for

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supporting me even though, sometimes, we debated when I was Majority Leader during the 15th Congress on some issues. I distinctly remember that she was not in the pink of health in 2013 when she volunteered to shoot a video endorsing my candidacy. I was proud and humbled that this Grand Ilongga approved of me.

She fulfilled her roles as best she can: as an obedient daughter, a brilliant student, an outstanding public servant, a sweet wife, a loving mother to her children and even to her extended family, including us in the Senate.

I remember she used to call me *palangga* all the time and hold my cheek with her hand each time she would say it. Being known as the Iron Lady of Asia, many do not know that she was actually very *malambing*, warm and motherly to her colleagues.

Senator Miriam stood in this Chamber and walked these halls, leaving vestiges of her courage and brilliance. Let us honor her by upholding her legacy of true and genuine public service. Hers are awesome shoes to fill, but in her memory let us aspire to lift up to the standards she has set for the members of this august Chamber.

Like the rest of you, I wish she was still here with us and I was actually hoping to see her on October 5, I did not know she was already that sick. We will miss her but we have to accept that she has simply passed on ahead of us.

We express our sincerest condolences to her family during this difficult time.

We will miss you *Palangga* Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago, and I am honored to have stood with you in this august Chamber.

COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR PACQUIAO

As cosponsor of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 179, Senator Pacquiao recalled how strong Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago was as she continued to serve the country even though she was battling cancer.

The full text of Senator Pacquiao's sponsorship speech follows:

The Iron Lady of Asia, former Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, proved to everyone that not even cancer can stop her from serving the Philippines.

Despite her condition, she pursued her role as a leader who rendered excellent service in all

branches of government – Judiciary, Executive and Legislative.

She showed us that she can overcome anything, even her battles with herself, in order to selflessly serve. She lived a life of passion, as she sought justice for the Filipino people. She fearlessly fought those who block our country's progress.

She is not afraid of being judged. She is a woman of power yet she manifested humility. She said, "I have no illusions about myself, about my life, about leaving a legacy or making a mark in people's lives. We are so insignificant. We are only here for a blink."

Even in her death, she taught us valuable lessons. For a neophyte senator like me, she would have been a great mentor.

Sa kanyang libro na "Stupid is Forever," sinabi niya na ayaw niya ng R.I.P. sa kaniyang lapida. Ang gusto niya I.S.R. – "I Shall Return." With this, we shall wait for your return, Iron Lady of Asia.

That is why I am with you in expressing sympathy and condolences to the family of the former senator. Whether by blood or by bond, we are connected to her.

At this juncture, Senate President Pro Tempore Drilon relinquished the Chair to Senate President Pimentel.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

Senator Villanueva informed the Body of how Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago has influenced his political career since they met when he was a member of the House of Representatives.

The full text of Senator Villanueva's manifestation follows:

Last Thursday, September 29, we heard the sad news of former Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago's passing. The nation stood in shock, our feeling of sorrow, our pain was greater than anyone could ever imagine.

Dr. Miriam Defensor Santiago was a great leader and a lawmaker, a source of pride and inspiration to every Filipino.

To our young people, she was a "rock star" – not only because of her wit and sense of humor but also because of her bold and moral leadership.



I was a first term and the youngest member of the House of Representatives when I first met Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago. From that moment until today, I have realized how much my political life, my advocacies and attributes as a public official, were largely influenced by Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago.

Hence, I was truly honored and humbled by her strong endorsement in the recent senatorial race. I owe her my victory. I believe her influence on millennials and the youth sector will last for a very long time.

Hindi po madali na makakita ng isang Miriam Defensor Santiago, isang tunay at certified "rock star" sa larangan ng pulitika, na magbibigay inspirasyon at impluwensiya sa ating tumayo at magsalita para sa kapakanan ng bayan, at huwag matakot na laging ipaglaban ang katotohanan, katarungan at katwiran.

Maraming salamat po.

COAUTHORS

At the instance of Senator Pacquiao and upon motion of Senator Sotto, all senators present were made coauthors of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 179.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 179

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 179, taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution Nos. 181 and 182, was adopted by the Body, subject to style.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

Following tradition and in deference to the passing away of former Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon the following day.

It was 3:54 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


ATTY. LUTGARDO B. BARBO

Secretary of the Senate

Approved on October 4, 2016