

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

SECRETARY  
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SENATE  
S. B. No. 1668

RD BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 3, Section 27, states:

The State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption.

Article 9, Section 1, states:

Public office is a public trust. Public officers and employees must at all times be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency, act with patriotism and justice, and lead modest lives.

It is a prevalent practice among public officers, whether elected or appointed, to append their names on public works projects which were either funded or facilitated through their office. This is unnecessary and highly unethical.

Crediting individual public officers, instead of the Government, lead to the following evils:

- (1) Such a system fosters and promotes a culture of political patronage and corruption, and diminishes the importance that the public needs to place on supporting government officials, not because of their popularity, but because of their essential role in policy determination, whether on the local or national level.
- (2) It diminishes the concept of continuity in good governance in the mind of the public.

Identifying a public works project as an effort of a particular personality ultimately gives rise to the question of what happens after that government official has finished tenure, a situation that not only promotes political instability but also deceives the taxpayers into thinking that they have to continue supporting a particular public official, if only to continue receiving public services, which in the first place, is actually their right to receive.

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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AN ACT  
PROHIBITING PUBLIC OFFICERS FROM CLAIMING CREDIT THROUGH SIGNAGE  
ANNOUNCING A PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT

*Be it enacted in the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Anti-Signage of Public Works Act.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the State’s policy for public officers to serve with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency, and to maintain honesty and integrity in public service.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act the term—

(1) “Government” includes the national government, the local governments, the government-owned and government-controlled corporations, and all other instrumentalities or agencies of the Republic of the Philippines and their branches.

(2) “Public officer” includes elective and appointive officials and employees, permanent or temporary, whether in the classified or unclassified or exempt service receiving compensation, even nominal, from the government as defined in the preceding subparagraph.

(3) “Public works” includes, but is not limited to the following: streets, bridges, sidewalks, walkways, public buildings, public parks, sewage facilities, basketball courts, waiting sheds, and lampposts, which are funded, wholly or partly, though public funds released by the Government.

(4) "Signage" any form of written announcement, installed, posted, hanged, painted or otherwise displayed in a public place.

SECTION 4. *Prohibited Acts.* – The following constitute a violation of this Act:

(1) Affixing, or causing to be affixed, the name, or image of any public official to a signage announcing a proposed or on-going public works project;

(2) Installing, or causing to be installed, signage announcing the maintenance, rehabilitation, and construction of public works crediting individual public officer, or bearing his or her image, for the maintenance, rehabilitation, and construction of such public works;

SECTION 5. *Allowed Practices.* – Nothing in this Act shall be construed to exclude agencies, departments, and local government units from:

(1) Affixing, or causing to be affixed, their official name, or logo to a signage announcing a proposed or on-going public works project;

(2) Installing, or causing to be installed, signage announcing the maintenance, rehabilitation, and construction of public works crediting the agency, department, or local government unit, or bearing their logo, for the maintenance, rehabilitation, and construction of such public works.

SECTION. 6. *Removal of Existing Signage.* – The Department of Public Works and Highways in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Metro Manila Development Authority is hereby ordered to remove all existing signage announcing a proposed or on-going public works project, and all existing signage announcing the maintenance, rehabilitation and construction of a public works project bearing the name or image of an individual public officer, within three (3) months after the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 7. *Prescription of Offenses.* — All offenses punishable under this Act shall prescribe in ten (10) years.

SECTION 8. *Penalties for Violations.* -- (1) Any public officer committing any of the prohibited acts in Section 4 shall be punished with imprisonment for not less than six (6) months nor more than one (1) year, and perpetual disqualification from public office.

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* -- If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* -- Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with, the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 11. *Effectivity Clause.* -- This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.

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