

SENATE
S. No. **1967**

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 3, Section 27, provides:

SEC. 27. 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:

SEC. 1. 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: firstly, 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; and, secondly, it diminishes the concept of continuity in good governance in the mind of the public. This bill seeks to curb this unethical practice.*

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MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

* This bill was originally filed during the Thirteenth Congress, First Regular Session.

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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

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

4 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Anti-Signage of Public Works
5 Act."

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

9 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* -For the purpose of this Act, the term:

10 (A) "Government" means the national government, the local governments, the
11 government-owned and government-controlled corporations, and all other instrumentalities or
12 agencies of the Republic of the Philippines and their branches;

13 (B) "Public officer" means elective and appointive officials and employees, permanent or
14 temporary, whether in the classified or unclassified or exempt service receiving compensation,
15 even nominal, from the government as defined in the preceding paragraph;

16 (C) "Public works" includes, but is not limited to the following: streets, bridges,
17 sidewalks, walkways, public buildings, public parks, sewage facilities, basketball courts, waiting
18 sheds, and lampposts, which are funded, wholly or partly, though public funds released by the
19 Government; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved,