

Resolution No. 2016-12

Sponsored by: National Affairs Committee

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**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF THE OPEN LETTER DEDICATED IN
HONOR OF FORMER SENATOR MIRIAM SANTIAGO**

*A resolution calling for the release of the Open Letter dedicated in honor of former Senator
Miriam Santiago*

Whereas, the Legislative Assembly is the highest policy-making body of the University Student Government (University Student Government Constitution, Article XIV, Section 1);

Whereas, the USG shall have the power of which emanates from the student body. It shall be the sole, unified, autonomous and democratic representative body of the students (University Student Government Constitution, Article III, Section 1);

Whereas, the National Affairs Committee shall discuss national and sectoral issues and present recommendations on such to the Legislative Assembly (University Student Government Constitution, Article V, Section 11);

Whereas, Former Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago, succumbed to cancer, passed away on September 29, 2016. (Santos, 2016);

Wherefore, be it resolved that this open letter (See Appendix A) be presented, and approved by the Legislative Assembly;

Wherefore, be it finally resolved that this open letter be approved and posted through the LA-PIO.

Adopted, September 30, 2016

APPENDIX A

OPEN LETTER DEDICATED IN HONOR OF FORMER SENATOR MIRIAM SANTIAGO

An epitome of empowerment and service; a woman of wisdom, courage, and wit. All these are embodied by former Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago who is also known as the "Iron Lady of Asia".

She embodied educational excellence, Sen. Santiago graduated magna cum laude with a degree of Political Science in University of the Philippines Iloilo; further pursued Bachelor of Laws, cum laude, from the University of the Philippines College of Law; obtained Graduate degrees of Master of laws and Doctor of Juridical Science from the University of Michigan; and earned a degree in Religious Studies, at the Maryhill School of Theology.

Santiago served in all three branches of the government - executive, judicial, and legislative. Due to her excellence in these branches, she was honored with different awards in recognition for her outstanding service which had led in making her the most awarded public official in our country in the present time. For instance, she received awards such as the Magsaysay Award for Government Service, Most Outstanding Alumna in Law from U.P., and The Outstanding Women in the Nation's service award for Law. Senator Miriam Santiago was an icon of women empowerment for her firm and strong personality.

Through the years, she has been widely known for her being one of the most empowering senator where she has filed the highest number of bills, and authored some of the most important laws. Miriam Santiago have raised some of the most important pending bills such as: anti-dynasty bill; age-appropriate curriculum for K-8 pupils; anti-epal bill; freedom of information bill. Moreover, she authored the Magna Carta of Women, which protected the rights of women in the country. Above all, Senator Miriam Santiago was highly known for being fearless identifying and disclosing suspected offenders in legislative investigations, especially in naming jueteng lords and illegal logging lords.

However, one of her truly notable contributions to our society goes beyond the edges of a pen and a paper. The youth, especially college students, admired her strong leadership persona for she has topped numerous university polls regarding the last Philippine presidential elections.

Being able to touch the minds and perspectives of our generation to contest corrupt and unjust social norms will be considered as her ultimate legacy. She proved to us that there is nothing erroneous about being bold in fighting for what you genuinely believe in as long as it is just.

Not only has she been a shining light in the Philippine political chronicles for her sharp legal mind but she has also served as a strong advocate of negating depraved status quos amidst numerous controversies. She is truly a legend who has spent and dedicated her life in service of others. Miriam Defensor Santiago, a woman whom even in her dying years had never

stopped devoting her life in service for the Filipinos. Through every juncture of her life, through every authoritative undertakings, and through all her engagements with the youth, she had carried with full vindication. This is why she inspires us to become a better version of ourselves everyday.

Her passing signifies that the Philippine government has one less principled and credible leader. The Philippines and the world of politics will not be the same without having her as one of the great pillars and protector of this nation. May her soul find eternal peace and happiness as she has now passed. May the legacy that she has left with us live on and never be forgotten.

APPENDIX B

Sources:

Santos, E. P. (2016, September 29). Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago dies. Retrieved September 29, 2016, from

<http://cnnphilippines.com/news/2016/09/29/Sen.-Miriam-Defensor-Santiago-dies.html>

Santiago, M. (2014, August). Miriam Defensor Santiago Curriculum Vitae. Retrieved from

https://www.senate.gov.ph/senators/sen_bio/santiago_cvitae.asp.