

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )**



23 APR 17 P1:16

**SENATE**

**S.B. No. 2069**

RECEIVED BY: 

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**Introduced by SENATOR FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO**

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**AN ACT  
RENAMING THE AGHAM ROAD AND THE BIR ROAD, STRETCHING FROM  
NORTH AVENUE, TRAVERSING THROUGH QUEZON AVENUE, UP TO EAST AVENUE,  
ALL LOCATED IN QUEZON CITY, AS SENATOR MIRIAM P. DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO  
AVENUE**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Senator Miriam Palma Defensor-Santiago was a Filipino scholar, academic, lawyer, judge, author, and stateswoman who served in all three branches of the Philippine government for almost five decades.

In 1983, while serving as presiding judge in the Regional Trial Court of Quezon City, she eradicated the court's backlog of cases by implementing a no-postponement policy.

Thereafter, she held numerous high-level positions in the Executive Department, including serving as the Commissioner of the Bureau of Immigration and Secretary of the Department of Agrarian Reform. As Immigration Commissioner, she implemented significant reforms that reduced corruption in the bureau. Meanwhile, as Secretary of Agrarian Reform, Senator Defensor-Santiago put an end to a controversial land conversion scheme where property owners were attempting to have their agricultural lands redefined as commercial, industrial, or residential in order to avoid or outright violate relevant regulations.

Senator Miriam also served as a three-term senator, where she was consistently among those with the highest numbers of bills and resolutions filed, as well as the

author of several landmark laws. Her advocacies covered wide-ranging topics related to education; job creation and support to entrepreneurs; public order, youth, women, and family relations; health and demography; and justice and human rights.

Due to her exemplary work in public service, Senator Santiago received numerous prestigious awards for excellence, some of which are the Outstanding Women in Nation's Service Award for Law (1986), Magsaysay Award for government service (1988), Gold Vision Triangle Award for government service, YMCA (1988), the Grand Cross of the Order of Civil Merit, Spain (2007), and the Distinguished Icon of Legal Excellence and Public Service Award (2016).

Senator Santiago was the first Filipino and Southeast Asian to be elected judge to the International Criminal Court for a nine-year term. However, she was not able to serve in the prestigious international body as she had to step down because of her illness.

Thus, in honor of Senator Defensor-Santiago's life-long public service and unparalleled contribution to shaping Philippine governance through her mastery of the law, this bill proposes to rename the Agham Road and the BIR Road to Senator Miriam P. Defensor-Santiago Avenue.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



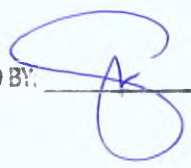
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DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO AVENUE**

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

1 SECTION 1. The Agham Road and the BIR Road, stretching from North Avenue,  
2 traversing through Quezon Avenue, up to East Avenue, all located in Quezon City, are  
3 hereby renamed as Senator Miriam P. Defensor-Santiago Avenue.

4 SEC. 2. The Department of Public Works and Highways shall issue the necessary  
5 rules, orders, and circulars to implement the provisions of this Act within sixty (60) days  
6 from its effectivity.

7 SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the  
8 Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general.

*Approved,*