

STATEMENT OF MDS YOUTH... - The Legacy ...

The Legacy of Miriam Defensor Santiago

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STATEMENT OF MDS YOUTH VOLUNTEER ADMINS OF THIS PAGE

Yesterday, one of the youth volunteers of Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago posted a statement on this page condemning the Marcoses for their constant usage of the late Senator in the campaign of Bongbong Marcos for the presidency. Everything that you have read in that statement is true, at least through the lens of the youth volunteers who tirelessly campaigned for her in 2015 to 2016 and are still dedicated to spreading her legacy and wisdom until now.

It was on April 3, 2016 when the Youth for Miriam Movement went to the Ilocos Region in an attempt to revive Miriam's dwindling presence in the area. It came as a shock to all of us that we didn't even see a single Miriam poster in the vicinity even though her running mate was part of the highly respected ruling dynasty in that region and the keeper of the "solid north" votes. Majority of the posters we saw featured Rodrigo Duterte – which was saddening but not surprising since we were aware of the brewing faction between the AIDuB (Alyansang Duterte-Bongbong) and DuCay (Duterte-Cayetano) in the Duterte headquarters.

We went to work and installed posters in the area though we were no match to the sea of high-quality posters of her rivals.

We also had a scheduled courtesy call with then-Governor Imee Marcos. We waited for around five hours for her to meet us, there was even excitement from the youth volunteers since some were diehard Marcos supporters. However, upon her arrival, we were greeted with displeasure.

"O, bakit kayo andito?" she said.

"Nagca-campaign lang kami rito para buhayin ulit ang Miriam-

Bongbong,” one of the youth leaders replied.

With disappointment written all over her face, Imee replied with “Not here. Okay na kami rito. Not here.” The phrase “not here” became a running joke among the Miriam youth even after the campaign, with some even parodying Imee’s tone.

After that, we just asked for a group picture with her then left immediately. Some of the youths were fuming in anger because of the cold reception we received. It dawned on us that Miriam was surrounded by people who just wanted to use her.

During the remaining days of the grueling campaign, we were receiving daily reports that Miriam was not even being mentioned during the caravans and sorties of the team of Bongbong – there were also reports that Duterte’s jingle was being played during these activities. Miriam knew about this for we have reported to her chief of staff these developments who relayed the information to the senator.

There was one instance when we designed a Miriam-BBM poster and wanted them mass produced (<https://bit.ly/3mDvQmn>) but Miriam, according to her staff, rejected the poster and said, “Hindi naman ako kinakampanya niyan eh.”

Did any of you remember seeing a Miriam-BBM poster in 2016? There was none. Zero. Zilch. Nada.

Fast forward to election day, there were reports of Sandro Marcos accidentally shading two presidential candidates in his ballot. “Yes, I shaded 2 presidents, it was an honest error on my part. I was a first time voter and extremely nervous,” Sandro said on his Facebook page.

“I voted for Duterte as president, and saw the number 4 right after, so (I) shaded that as it was my dad’s number. I ended up shading Poe’s name instead of my dad’s, so my presidential vote didn’t count,” he said (source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/784957/marcos-son-admits-ballot-error-apologizes-for-cheating-claim>).

Yes, the son of Bongbong Marcos did not even vote for his father’s running mate.

Months after the elections, President Duterte revealed that that the eldest child of ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos was among the politicians who funded his presidential campaign (source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2016/12/29/1657805/duterte-admits-being-indebted-imee-marcos>).

Imee dismissed this statement of President Duterte as a joke but admitted that her participation in Duterte's campaign was to pitch for votes in the so-called "Solid North" provinces in the Ilocos region.

"Sinuportahan natin siya (Duterte) at walang kapalit," Imee said. (Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/585280/imee-marcos-denies-contributing-to-duterte-s-campaign-kitty>)

Did you also notice that BBM, unlike other vice presidential candidates who showed great support to their “ka-tandem”, was never present in all the presidential debates?

For the past months, the Marcoses have been ceaseless in fronting Miriam for their ambitions for a Malacañang comeback. They are using Miriam to say that their father never sinned. But let it be known that Miriam NEVER denied the sins of Ferdinand Marcos and was against martial law even when she was asked about it in one of her final interviews (source: <https://www.facebook.com/WisdomMDS/videos/1940901599489158/>).

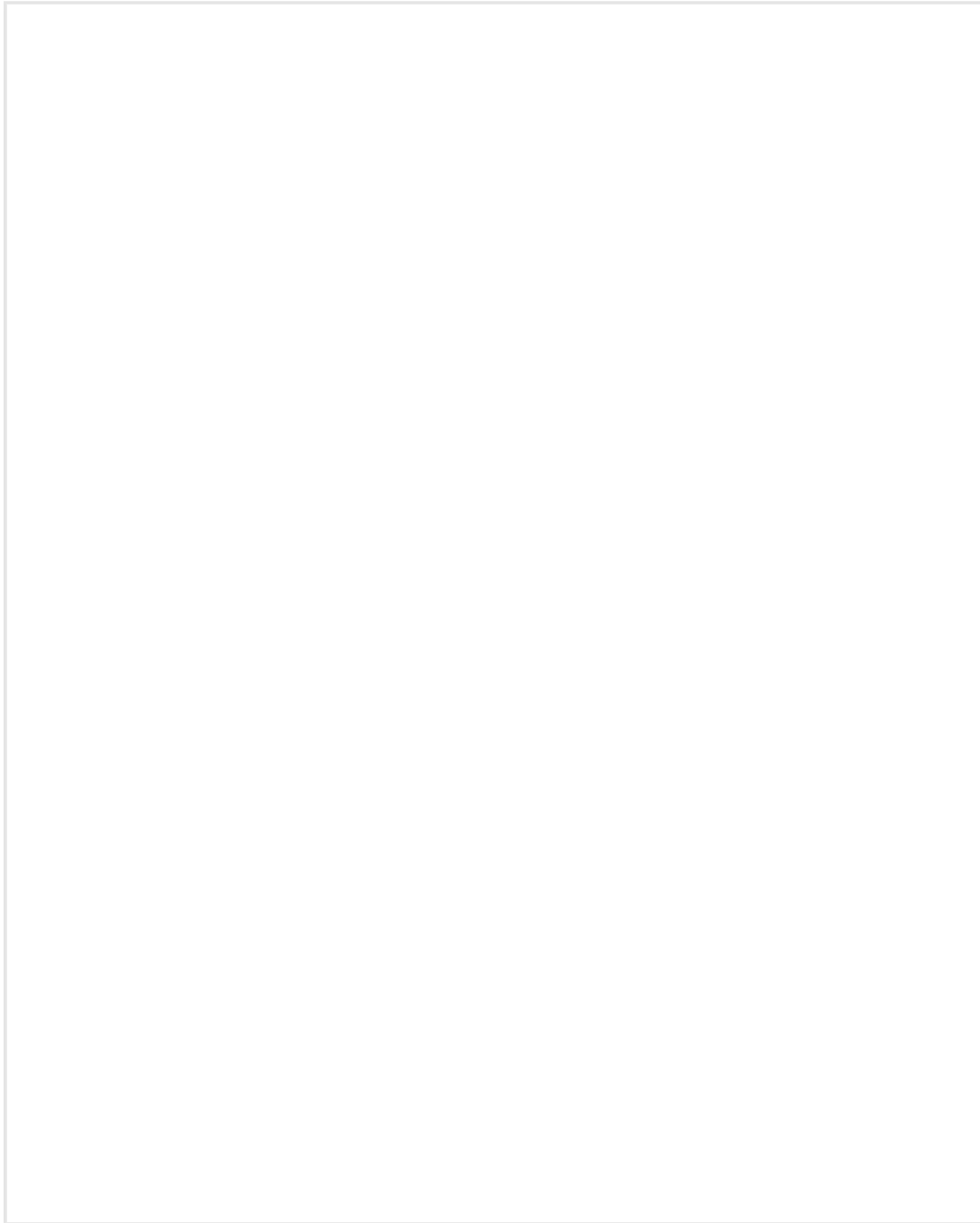
We know there are questions on why Miriam tarnished her anti-corruption image by taking a Marcos as her running mate last minute before filing her certificate of candidacy. That question is something that we can't answer though firsthand accounts from some people really close to her were riveting, saddening, and surprising to say the least.

Miriam was supposed to live longer but got depressed due to the results of the 2016 elections and developed pneumonia because of it which accelerated her death. She felt that the world turned its back on her despite her efforts to usher reform while fighting through cancer (“Sayang naman ang mga napag-aralan ko,” she said on why she was running) during a taxing campaign period -- with a family of traitors from the north.

Now we'll repeat the question: Sino nga ba ngayon ang gumagamit sa patay?

It's time for the Filipinos to say "not here" to traitors for power.

#NotHere



Sad

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