

Four AFP ranking officers get CA approval, DAR chief deferred

The Commission on Appointments (CA), in its August 30 plenary session, presided by President of the Senate/Chairman of the Commission Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III, approved the confirmation of the nominations of four Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) ranking officers from the Department of National Defense (DND).

The Commission gave its consent to the nominations of Maj. Gen. Rafael C. Valencia to the rank of Lieutenant General, Brig. Gen. Arnel M. Duco to the rank of Major General, Brig. Gen. Casiano C. Monilla to the rank of Major General and Col. Fidel Igmedio T. Cruz, Jr., PAF to the rank of Brigadier General. Rep. Roy M. Loyola, chair of the Commission’s defense committee, recommended their confirmation to the plenary with no objections raised.

In an earlier hearing at the committee level, the Commission deferred action on the ad interim appointment of Agrarian Reform Secretary Rafael “Ka Paeng” V. Mariano due to the long list of those opposing his confirmation. The appointment of Mariano drew 10 oppositions. Only the testimony of Ma. Theresa Gallego, representing her father, Manuel Gallego, Jr., a landowner from Nampicuan Nueva Ecija, was heard by the committee during the deliberations. CA Asst. Majority Floor Leader Sen. Vicente C. Sotto III, chairman of the Committee on Agrarian Reform, set another schedule for Mariano’s appointment deliberations upon the motion of Sen. Gregorio B. Honasan II.