

Cayetano is now DFA chief, five other officials get CA seal of approval, Rep. Jalosjos sits as new CA member

The Commission on Appointments (CA), in its May 17 plenary session, presided by President of the Senate/Chairman of the Commission Aquilino “Koko” L. Pimentel III, passed, in record time, the confirmation of the nominations and ad interim appointments of Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter “Compañero” S. Cayetano and five other senior officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

In his shortest sponsorship ever at the plenary session, foreign affairs committee chair, Sen. Panfilo M. Lacson said, that, “In the spirit of justice, consistency, I will now deliver the shortest sponsorship speech, thus, it is my distinct honor and privilege to move that the Commission give its consent to the nomination of Senator Alan Peter Cayetano, as Secretary of the Foreign Affairs.” This hasty motion was, ironically, duly and lengthily seconded by CA Vice Chairman Rep. Ronaldo B. Zamora, Sens. Ralph G. Recto, Juan Miguel F. Zubiri and Joseph Victor G. Ejercito, respectively.

Cayetano served as a Senator of the Philippines for almost a decade until the confirmation of his nomination to the top post of the DFA. He also served as a three-term Representative of the Lone District of Taguig-Pateros after his stint as a Vice-Mayor and Councilor, formerly, of the Municipality of Taguig.

A proud product of the De la Salle Zobel, where he attended his high school and elementary studies, Cayetano earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City in 1993 and proceeded to finish his Juris Doctor in the Ateneo School of Law, where he graduated in 1997 as a Silver Medalist. He was admitted to the Philippine Bar in May 1998.

Cayetano comes from a family of public servants, with his former Senator and TV personality father, Senator Renato “Rene” “Compañero” Cayetano and sibling former Senator Pilar Juliana “Pia” Cayetano sharing the limelight. His wife is the incumbent Taguig City Mayor Maria Laarni Lopez-Cayetano.

Meanwhile, the nominations of senior officials, namely, Mr. Wilfredo C. Santos, Chief of Mission, Class II, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Islamic Republic of Iran, with concurrent jurisdiction over the Republic of Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan; Ms. Bernardita L. Catalla, Chief of Mission, Class II, as Ambassador Extraordinary

and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Lebanon and Mr. Adnan V. Alonto, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with concurrent jurisdiction over the Republic of Yemen, with the salary and emoluments of a Chief of Mission, Class I were also given the Commission's consent. Likewise, Foreign Service Officer, Class II Jim G. Minglana and Foreign Service Officer, Class I Robert Eric A. Borje secured their ad interim appointments upon the CA's confirmation in plenary.

This session also saw the oath-taking of newly elected Commission Member from the House Contingent, Rep. Seth Frederick P. Jalosjos and his election to various committee positions previously occupied by Rep. Antonio R. Floirendo, Jr.

In an earlier hearing at the committee level, Health Secretary Paulyn Jean Ubial's confirmation process was suspended due to lack of material time.

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