

**Senate President and CA Chair Pimentel resigns,
Sotto assumes Senate, CA top post**

Senate President Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III, in a press conference on Monday morning, May 21, announced his decision to step down from his post and nominated Sen. Vicente “Tito” Sotto III to replace him as leader of the Upper Chamber. In his statement, at the press conference, Pimentel expressed how he tried his best in doing his job and pledged to help his successor pass pro-people legislation consistent with the legislative agenda of the President. “It has been an honor and a privilege for me to serve the Senate as its President, a position once held by my father... It was his example I had tried to emulate during my time at the helm of the Senate,” he said.

In his nomination speech for Sotto as Senate President later in the plenary, Pimentel thanked his colleagues for giving him “the singular opportunity to preside over the affairs of our beloved institution in the last 22 months.” He also thanked the entire Senate family for the support they have shown him. He described Sotto, his nominee, as an institution in the Senate. “He is the longest serving senator, having served in the Senate for around 20 years now. In his years in the Senate, he has held the following positions: Minority Leader and Majority Leader. He has seen legislative work from all possible angles. He has “been there and done that”. In his long career in the Senate, he has always held leadership positions,” he added. Pimentel also cited Sotto’s contributions to Congress and lauded him for his professionalism and dedication to his work and to the institution.

Pimentel relinquished the Senate chief post he had held since the start of the 17th Congress in 2016 to Sotto after 16 senators signed the resolution seeking a reorganization of the Senate and electing Sotto as the new Senate chief. The Senate minority bloc abstained in the election of the new Senate chief.

In accepting the Senate presidency, Sotto pledged to continue in helping the passage of laws that would be beneficial to the country and to every Filipino and uphold the independence of the Senate.

Sotto said, “To my colleagues and to the Filipino people, I am committed to do my very best, and with your help, I am confident that I have in my background the template of the nine other Senate presidents that I have served... I am here accepting this challenge that you have assigned to me as Senate President.”

Sotto was sworn into his position as Senate President by Sen. Gringo Honasan. Also present during Sotto’s oath-taking were members of his family, including his wife, Helen Gamboa, and their four children.

Having assumed the Senate presidency, Sotto also now sits as the new Commission on Appointments (CA) Chairman as provided for in the Constitution. Article VI, Section 18, of the 1987 Constitution provides that the Senate President serves as *ex officio* Chairman of the Commission on Appointments (CA).