

**DepEd chief Briones, 44 AFP ranking officers
muster CA approval**

The last session day before Congress adjourned for a six-week break yielded the Commission on Appointments' (CA) confirmation of the *ad interim* appointments of 44 ranking officers in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the *ad interim* appointment of **Department of Education (DepEd) Secretary Leonor Magtolis Briones**.

The Commission, yesterday, in its plenary session presided by President of the Senate/Chairman of the Commission Aquilino "Koko" L. Pimentel III, gave its consent to the *ad interim* appointment of Briones who hurdled various questions at the Committee on Education, Culture and Sports, chaired by Sen. Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV. Briones was grilled by the members of the committee about DepEd's programs and policies, the department's position in the health department's plan to distribute condoms to students and on issues about her physical fitness to do her job, among others.

Briones, 76, distinguished herself as a truly accomplished woman - an academician *par excellence*, a seasoned public servant and feisty activist.

Liling, as she is fondly called by her close colleagues, graduated *magna cum laude* in Business Administration major in Accountancy at Silliman University in 1957, completed her Master's degree in Public Administration and was awarded Dean's Lister for Local Government and Fiscal Administration from the University of the Philippines (UP) in Diliman Quezon City in 1967, and completed her Diploma course in Development Administration major in Public Enterprises from Leeds University, England in 1968. She also completed her specialized studies in Policy for Public Enterprises in 1984 and Innovations in Governance in 2004 from Harvard University, USA and was conferred Doctor of Public Administration (*Honoris Causa*) at the Central University of the Philippines in Iloilo City last year.

Prior to her education portfolio, her positions in government service include serving as the Secretary of the Commission on Audit for nine years (1978 to 1987), Vice President for Finance and Administration at the UP Diliman (1996-1998), Presidential Adviser on Social Development, Office of the President of the Philippines and National Treasurer of the Philippines, Bureau of Treasury (1998-2001). She served for 40 years as a professor and faculty member at the Graduate Level of the UP National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG) where she was conferred the honorary title *Professor Emeritus* by its Board of regents in 2013.

Briones formerly chaired the Freedom from Debt Coalition and was Co-Convenor of Social Watch Philippines and Social Watch Asia where she led a civil society campaign to increase the budget for social services, especially for education.

Asked by Sen. Panfilo Lacson of her legacy as DepEd secretary during the committee hearing, Briones stated that she wanted to leave a legacy of "a nation of young people loving the country, loving its history and culture, using and nurturing individuals who are critical to think, who are innovative, and who are also happy at the same time." In order to achieve this, Briones stressed that, "we have to prepare them (youth) to accept change, to live with change, and to plan and to react to change in a positive manner."

In his sponsorship speech before the Commission body in the plenary, education, sports and culture committee chair Aquino expressed that Briones “has made a lifelong commitment to exceptional public service,” and that “we are fortunate to have her serve as a leader in our country’s pursuit of excellence in education.” Praising Briones’ academic excellence, Aquino also emphasized, “I can say that she truly is a champion for education - one who can make our hopes and dreams for every Filipino student a reality.”

Meanwhile, Committee on National Defense chair Rep. Roy M. Loyola also deliberated on the 44 AFP officers’ *ad interim* appointments and made a motion recommending their confirmation to the plenary with no objections raised. **Lieutenant General Donato B. San Juan II and Major Generals Ronald C. Villanueva, Noel S. Clement and Raul M. Farnacio** headed the list of the AFP officers whose *ad interim* appointments were confirmed by the Commission.

Among the other *ad interim* appointments approved by the Commission were those of:

ARNOLD F. FERNANDEZ	to the rank of Brigadier General
WILLIAM A. ALUNDAY	to the rank of Brigadier General
NATHANIEL Y. CASEM	to the rank of Brigadier General
BONIFACIO B. CEBRIAN, JR.	to the rank of Brigadier General
MANUEL TRECE S. ROBLES	to the rank of Brigadier General
NOEL S. BUAN	to the rank of Brigadier General
MACAIROG S. ALBERTO	to the rank of Brigadier General
CARLO MAGNO L. TABO	to the rank of Brigadier General
ERWIN A. DE ASIS	to the rank of Brigadier General
MARIO G. LACUROM	to the rank of Brigadier General
ARVIN R. LAGAMON	to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
YEGOR REY P. BARROQUILLO, JR.	to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
ARIEL M. REYES	to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
EDMUNDO G. PERALTA	to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
DENNIS FRANCIS V. PASTOR	to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
LEONARDO I. PEÑA	to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
NOLY P. MAPILI	to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
REY B. ALEMANIA	to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
ELIGLEN F. VILLAFLORES	to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
LEONARDO C. DACUMOS	to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
ROMEO N. BAUTISTA III	to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
ALEXEI C. MUSÑGI	to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
ENRIQUETO R. DEOCADEZ, JR.	to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
RICHARD M. DAVID	to the rank of Captain, Philippine Navy
ULYSSES S. MARQUEZ	to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Air Force
VICENTE A. NALDOZA, JR.	to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Air Force
FRANCISCO R. GODOY, JR.	to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Air Force
CELSO G. RESURRECCION, JR.	to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Air Force
FEDERICO B. ENRIQUEZ	to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Air Force
AMADO V. DELA PAZ	to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Air Force
JOSE JOHNSON T. GRAYDA, JR.	to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Air Force
JOSEPH P. ARCHOG	to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Air Force
JOEL A. INACAY	to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Air Force
EDMON B. GUPIT	to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Air Force
JOEL T. REBULLAR	to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Air Force

LIZANDER G. OLIVEROS	(Reserve) to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Air Force (Reserve)
TEODORO C. EPRES	to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Air Force (Reserve)
GEORGE J. TAGLE	to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Air Force (Reserve)
EDNA S. RENEJANE	to the to the rank of Colonel, Medical Corps
HERBERT CONSTANTINE M. BAUTISTA	to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army (Reservist)

In the event of Congress' adjournment starting March 18, 2017, the appointments of Health Secretary Paulyn Jean R. Ubial, Social Welfare and Development Secretary Judy M. Taguiwalo, Agrarian Reform Secretary Rafael V. Mariano and Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez are deemed bypassed.

