

**DSWD chief's appointment gets thumbed-down by CA;  
Senators Angara and Villar take oath as new Members**

**Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Secretary Judy M. Taguiwalo's** *ad interim* appointment was disapproved by the Commission on Appointments (CA) yesterday, in its plenary session presided by President of the Senate/Chairman of the Commission Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III.

Taguiwalo, a long-time left-wing activist and professor who was jailed in the 1970's during the Marcos regime, is one of the three Cabinet members nominated by the Communist Party of the Philippines - National Democratic Front (CPP-NDF) to join the Duterte administration. She, however, denied links to the group during the committee deliberations.

A former Faculty Member (Professor) at the Department of Women and Development Studies, College of Social Work and Community Development (CSWCD) of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Taguiwalo is a recipient of various honors and awards, namely, the *Makabayang Guro* Award from the Alliance of Concerned Teachers; UP Diliman Centennial Professorial Chair; and CSWCD Outstanding Alumna and Distinguished Alumni Award in Gender Equality / Women Empowerment, among others. She finished her Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work, *cum laude*, from the University of the Philippines, earned her Master of Arts degree in Public Administration from the Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, and completed her Doctorate of Philosophy degree (PhD) in Philippine Studies, College of Social Sciences and Philosophy from the University of the Philippines.

Grilled on various policy issues during the committee deliberations, Taguiwalo failed to convince the Commission on her merit and fitness for the social welfare portfolio when Members of the Committee on Labor, Employment and Social Welfare, chaired by Rep. Joel Mayo Z. Almario voted for the disapproval of her *ad interim* appointment in an executive session/caucus prior to the plenary session.

Almario, during the plenary session, pronounced that, "Our position Mr. Chairman, my dear colleagues, is no easy task, and our role is sacred... The committee has conducted a votation and has reached the requirement of a majority vote against the confirmation. I stand before this august chamber as chairman of the Committee on Labor, Employment and Social Welfare to move for the CA to reject the *ad interim* appointment of Judy Marigomen Taguiwalo as secretary of DSWD."

Under the New Rules of the Commission on Appointments, Section 15. REQUISITE VOTE OF THE COMMISSION provides that, "The Commission shall rule on all nominations or appointments brought before it by a majority vote of all its members. Only members present shall be entitled to vote. The *ex officio* Chairman shall not vote except to break a tie. All other matters shall be decided by a majority vote of the members present constituting a quorum."

Taguiwalo is the third Cabinet official appointed by President Rodrigo Duterte whose *ad interim* appointment was disapproved by the Commission. Department of

Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto R. Yasay, Jr. and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Regina Paz La' o Lopez are the two other Cabinet officials who earlier failed to get the CA's nod.

Pimentel declared Almario's motion to disapprove Taguiwalo's *ad interim* appointment as DSWD secretary approved after hearing no objection from the floor. Sens. Ralph G. Recto, Sonny M. Angara, Loren Legarda and Minority Floor Leader Francis "Kiko" N. Pangilinan took the floor and manifested their vote in favor of Taguiwalo's appointment after the CA *en banc* adopted Almario's recommendation.

Also taken up during yesterday's plenary session were the election of **Sens. Sonny M. Angara and Cynthia A. Villar** as Members of the Commission on Appointments vice Sens. Joseph Victor G. Ejercito and Alan Peter Compañero S. Cayetano, respectively. Sen. Ralph G. Recto was also elected to occupy the committee positions previously occupied by Sen. Francis "Kiko" N. Pangilinan and additional Members were elected to the Committees on Accounts, Ethics and Rules and Resolutions. Angara and Villar took their oath of office before President of the Senate / Chairman of the Commission Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III during the plenary session.

