

2017

DENR chief and CSC Commissioner hurdle CA

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) **Secretary Roy A Cimatu's** and Civil Service Commission (CSC) Commissioner **Leopoldo Roberto W. Valderosa, Jr.'s** *ad interim* appointments hurdled the Commission on Appointments (CA) yesterday during its plenary session presided by President of the Senate/Chairman of the Commission Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III.

The environment chief, on the continuation of the deliberation on his *ad interim* appointment, finally secured the nod of the Commission after thorough deliberations by the committee members.

In his sponsorship speech, Sen. Emmanuel "Manny" D. Pacquiao, chairman of the environment and natural resources panel, extolled the strong qualities of the former military officer, now the DENR head, that merited the overwhelming affirmative votes from most of the members of the Commission. Pacquiao even quipped on the good secretary when he said, "When I was not even born yet, then First Lieutenant Roy Cimatu planted a tree at Camp Macario Peralta, Jamidan, Capiz and named it "First Lt. Cimatu Tree". Today, as we recommend to plenary the approval of his *ad interim* appointment as Secretary of DENR, it was whispered to me that the good Secretary would immediately visit the Camp and plant another tree to be named this time as "DENR Secretary Cimatu Tree." Senators Loren Legarda, Juan Miguel F. Zubiri and Asst. Majority Floor Leader Sen. Vicente C. Sotto III backed up Pacquiao's endorsement and took turns in delivering their respective manifestations supporting Cimatu's confirmation.

Cimatu graduated from the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class '70 after which he rose from the ranks to become one of the stars-decorated and bemedalled officers in various positions in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). His record-breaking feat of garnering the top ranking average of 97.72% in the Advance Infantry Officers Course at the Philippine Army Staff College in 1979 remains unsurpassed. He also holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the Ateneo de Manila University and was distinguished as Best Foreign Student receiving the Command Plaque for Academic Excellence during his Command and Staff Course at Leavenworth, USA.

His military career was highlighted by his appointment as the 29th AFP Chief of Staff in 2002, besting five other generals, his seniors. He served as Special Envoy to the Middle East on various occasions soon after his retirement from the service as he enjoyed the trust of past and present administrations, having served under the leaderships of Presidents Arroyo, Aquino and Duterte, respectively.

Valderosa, on the other hand, is a great example of a civil servant who climbed the ranks since he started his public service as Chief Administrative Officer of the CSC Regional Office 11, Human Resource Division of Davao City in 1991. From then on, he continued to persevere occupying various positions in the Commission, as he gradually ascended to become the present Commissioner of the CSC vice Nieves L. Osorio for a term expiring on 2 February 2020.

Valderosa graduated from the Ateneo de Davao University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration Major in Management and proceeded to earn Masteral units in Business Administration from the same institution.

Sen. Cynthia A. Villar, chairperson of the constitutional commissions and offices panel, endorsed Valderosa's appointment's confirmation to plenary. In her sponsorship speech, she expressed that, "Nothing worth having comes easy. While being a Commissioner may not have crossed his thoughts 39 years ago, the years have witnessed his dedication, perseverance, time marked by varying levels of challenges and obstacles but which translate into opportunities for serving his fellow Filipino."

Meanwhile, the *ad interim* appointment of Department of Health (DOH) Secretary Paulyn Rosell-Ubial remains pending as her confirmation proceedings were suspended during its last committee hearing held October 3 at the CA Hearing Room.