

OPENING STATEMENT OF  
JUSTICE SECRETARY VITALIANO N. AGUIRRE II  
BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS

HEARING NO. 2  
February 15, 2017  
9 a.m.

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Madam Chairperson, honorable members of the Commission on Appointments, kindred souls in public service, distinguished guests, a blessed good morning to all.

Foremost, I thank all of you for giving me your precious time.

I am once again before this august commission to humbly seek the confirmation of my *ad interim* appointment as the Secretary of Justice in the administration of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte.

In reverential compliance with the mandates of our Constitution which I swore to uphold and to support, I come before the honorable Commission to seek its imprimatur. I come before you asking not for charity nor seeking for your dole out, rather I seek your imprimatur to fully serve the Filipino people as the steward of your Department of Justice.

Previously, I came before all of you and offered my hard earned reputation and my integrity in the service of our people.

Madam Chair, your honors, I now make the same offer coupled with the promise of redoubled efforts to fully implement our President's marching orders to truly wage war against illegal drugs, against corruption and against all forms of criminality.

Thomas Jefferson once said, *give up money, give up fame, give up science, give up the earth itself and all it contains, rather than do an immoral act*, that is also my commitment to all present and to our people. He further said, *the precept of Providence is to do always what is right, and leave the issue to HIM*. Before all of you, I commit to do same.

If it is indeed HIS will that I am to continue serving HIM in this capacity, then may all of us be willing participants in the unfolding of HIS Grand Design.

With my unshakeable faith in the Almighty and full trust in HIS guidance, protection and provision, I now submit myself and the trajectory of my aspirations to serve to your disposition and benevolent approval.

Thank you Madam Chair. Thank you your Honors.

*Mabuhay po kayong lahat* and May God bless us all.

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