

**SOJ VITALIANO N. AGUIRRE II
MESSAGE OF THANKS TO DOJ FAMILY
CoA CONFIRMATION**

**FLAG CEREMONY
February 20, 2017
DOJ GROUNDS**

My Dear DOJ family, a blessed morning to all!

I wish to start the week with a message of heartfelt thanks and sincere appreciation for all the prayers and the support extended by everyone during my confirmation hearings before the Commission on Appointments.

My experiences in those two hearings are both humbling and enlightening. However, I wish to reassure everyone that my resolve to make our department better remains. I will say that it is now more reinvigorated.

During my second confirmation hearing, as I was requesting for the imprimatur to fully serve the Filipino people, I made the following offers and promises before everyone gathered:

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.

I enjoin everyone to join me and to help me fulfill these promises. I once asked of all of you to walk beside me as we strive to better the DOJ, I reiterate that invitation once more.

Let our legacy be one of change, of betterment, of advancement as one united Department of Justice.

For those who remain to be recalcitrant and headstrong in their disobedience to the reforms we are introducing, I am so sorry to have thwarted your efforts to block my confirmation and to cause my removal. I am sorry to have disappointed you.

You will continue to be disappointed.

Time and again, I say this. I will continue to serve for as long as I have the trust and the confidence of our President. And I have no intention of breaking that trust nor eroding that confidence.

To the discontented, to the misguided and to the dissenters, I offer you the opportunity to cooperate and to reform before it is too late. Join me, join us, let us help each one realize my avowed intention to better the DOJ.

If despite this call, you shall remain to be a force of resistance to the changes we will introduce, then you may not like the situation that you will find yourself in.

I shall utilize all the powers and the prerogatives of my office to go after you. You will get the full measure of the well deserved repayment for your wrongdoings.

It will be better for you to leave while you still can. By this time, you already know that I am a man of my word, I do what I promised and I do not say that lightly.

With full faith and surrender to the Almighty's guidance, His protection and His providence, I submit myself to His script as his plans for the DOJ unfolds. And if He brings me to it, I know that He will bring me through it.

Let us make the DOJ worthy of its people and let us develop our people to be worthy of the DOJ!

Once again, thank you and a blessed work week ahead to all!

Mabuhay ang DOJ!

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