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CEBU BUSINESS WEEK

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SPECIAL EDITION

DUTERTE NAMES 7 CEBU JUDGES

3rd time president names Cebu lawyers as judges

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte appointed seven Cebu-based lawyers as new Regional Trial Court judges in Cebu on April 27, 2020.

The new judges are: Van Russel Inopiquez, RTC Branch 3, Cebu City; Jose Alfonso Gomoz, RTC Branch 5, Lapu-Lapu City; Maria Dee Seares, RTC Branch 6, Mandaue City; Romeo Reyes, RTC Branch 7, Talisay City; Judilyn Tapia, RTC Branch 8, Toledo City; Ernesto Narido Jr., RTC Branch 11, Carcar City; and Albie Carmelo Pescadero, RTC Branch 12, City of Naga, Cebu.

Judge Seares is the only daughter of Sun.Star Cebu's Public and Standard Editor Pachico A. Seares. Judge Reyes is a former professor at the University of San Jose Recoletus. Judge Tapia was the fiscal of Toledo City.

The appointments were formally received by Supreme Court Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta on July 14, 2020.

The Office of the

President has ordered the Supreme Court to notify the lawyers about their appointments within seven days from the receipt of the copies of their appointment.

This was the third time Duterte, whose parents are from Cebu, appointed Cebu-based lawyers to the judiciary since he assumed the presidency in 2016.

By: **ELIAS O. BAQUERO**

There are a total of 25 Cebu-based lawyers Duterte has appointed to the RTC since 2016.

For his part, Executive Justice Gabriel Ingles of the Court of Appeals (CA) welcomed the appointment of new RTC judges.

“Congratulations to all of them! My hope is that

they be always mindful that the role of every judge is to dispense justice, that is to give parties in every case their due based only on the facts established by the evidence and the law applicable to such facts and this role should be performed with independence, competence, integrity, honesty, probity, efficiency

and humility. And never should such values be compromised,” Executive Justice Ingles said.

On the other hand, the vice mayor of Tuburan, Cebu who is the incumbent executive vice president of the Vice Mayors' League in the Philippines also welcomed the new appointments of judges.

“With these recent appointments, it only shows that the government is really serious to their commitment to strengthen our judiciary system. Salute to our retirees, our gratitude remain and we shall always value your contributions. To the new appointees, you are indeed great and mighty in this new battlefield. Never forget to ask guidance from our Almighty Father up high. Congratulations!” said Tuburan, Cebu Vice Mayor Democrito “Aljun” Diamante, the executive vice president of the Vice Mayors' League of the Philippines.



JUDGE Judilyn Tapia of RTC Beach 8, Toledo City (left) and University of San Jose-Recoletos (USJ-R) Law Professor Romeo Reyes Jr. (right) RTC Branch 7 judge in Talisay City.