

Cimatu breezes through CA

By JP LOPEZ
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WITH “overwhelming” support from lawmakers, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu yesterday breezed through the confirmation process and obtained the nod of the Commission on Appointments (CA).

Sen. Manny Pacquiao, chairman of the CA committee on environment and natural resources, endorsed Cimatu’s confirmation to the plenary after the executive session of the panel where members took a vote.

Pacquiao said Cimatu, who got “overwhelming yes votes” from CA members, is the “most fitting and best qualified” for the agency’s highest post due to his stellar achievements in his 37-year military career.

Sources said Cimatu’s confirmation would pave the way for the appointment of former Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico as DENR undersecretary. Suplico was seen at the session hall yesterday.

He was also at the session hall last week during Cimatu’s confirmation proceedings. Suplico reportedly said he was with Cimatu to help.

Following his confirmation, Cimatu, in a statement, said the DENR under his leadership will push for “people-centered agenda in pursuit of environmental protection and sustainable development.”

He said his confirmation as DENR Secretary will allow him to continue reforms, and pursue programs and projects that would truly protect the environment and improve people’s lives.

Cimatu, former Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, was appointed as the Philippines’ special envoy to the Middle East during the administration of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

He took the helm at the DENR after the CA rejected the appointment of environmental activist Regina Lopez to the post.

Cimatu suspended Lopez’s administrative order which required the environment chief’s approval of environmental compliance certificates (ECCs) of projects critical to the environment. – ***With Angela Lopez de Leon***

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