

Honoring San Beda's Pride in the President Rodrigo Duterte Cabinet

by Joffre M. Alajar



Rarely has the Official Cabinet of the President been occupied by a relatively significant number of Bedans until the present administration. This however, did not come as a surprise since President Rodrigo Roa Duterte (*Law Class '72*) is a full-blooded Bedan, and the first Bedan to be elected to the highest office of the land.

It is in this light, that the San Beda Law Alumni Association (*SBLAA*) organized a Testimonial Dinner Reception in honor of **Atty. Salvador C. Medialdea** (*Class '76*), Executive Secretary, Office of the President; **Atty. Vitaliano N. Aguirre II** (*Class '71*), Secretary, Department of Justice; **Atty. Arthur P. Tugade** (*Class '71*), Secretary, Department of Transportation; **Atty. Rodolfo A. Salalima** (*Class '73*), Secretary, Department of Information and Communications Technology; **Atty. Alfredo C. Lim** (*Class '76*), Chief Operating Officer and President, PAGCOR; and **Atty. Abdullah D. Mama-o** (*Class '72'*), Presidential Adviser on Overseas Filipino Workers



The simple but well-attended dinner program was held last September 1, Thursday at Club Filipino. Except for Secretary Arthur P. Tugade who had a previous engagement, the five Bedan officials graced the affair tendered in their honor. The program started promptly at 6:30 PM, with the Montserrat Singers singing the Philippine National Anthem, Bedan Hymn, and San Beda Law Hymn. Atty. Avelino V. Cruz, SBLAA Chairman Emeritus, delivered the welcome remarks acknowledging the valued presence of the five honorees together with former Supreme Court Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban, SC Associate Justices Bienvenido Reyes and Jose Mendoza, former SC Associate Justice Antonio Eduardo Nachura and a lot more legal luminaries in attendance. Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, OSB, Rector-President, in his congratulatory message announced as well that San Beda will soon become a university, acknowledging the assistance being extended by Bedans especially Executive Secretary Medialdea, in making sure that this 115-year old Benedictine institution will soon become a university. This announcement was received warmly by the audience who all looked forward to the San Beda U of the future.



Justice Francisco P. Acosta, SBLAA President, delivered the testimonial for the five honorees. Aside from taking pride in their credentials, Justice Acosta shared with the audience some personal funny anecdotes about the honorees which were received with much laughter by fellow Bedans and friends of the honorees.



Plaques of recognition and Saint Benedict statues were awarded to the honorees for serving as a great inspiration and a source of joy and pride for the San Beda family. **ES Medialdea** expressed gratitude to his Bedan kind of education which formed his character, developed his competence and inculcated in him the many Benedictine values and virtues – all necessary in his present job as Executive Secretary at the Office of the President. **DOJ Secretary Aguirre** shared with the audience how he struggled in life coming from a poor family, valuing much his Bedan education by emerging as the Law Class Valedictorian of 1971. **DICT Secretary Salalima** likewise expressed his appreciation for the quality Benedictine education he received from San Beda through the years, saying that he would not have achieved much in life if not for his Bedan education. **Presidential Adviser Mama-o** was also very appreciative of his appointment by President Duterte in the Overseas Filipino Workers office. Meanwhile, **PAGCOR President Lim** was very emotional about what he went through in life especially so that he had a serious illness before and now fully recovered with the able support of his family and Bedan friends, and facing head on another challenging task and that is being at the helm of PAGCOR.

It was a memorable evening of joy, laughter and a nostalgic trip down to memory lane, as the SBLAA honored San Beda's Great Pride in the President Rodrigo Duterte Cabinet. To ES Bingbong Medialdea, DOJ Secretary Vit Aguirre, DICT Secretary Rudy Salalima, DOT Secretary Art Tugade, PAGCOR President Fred Lim and Presidential Adviser Abdullah Mama-o, here's a grand toast for more success in your respective services to the Filipino people.

Go San Beda, Fight!

