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President Marcos announces massive housecleaning of the government bureaucracy during the celebration of the third anniversary of martial law (September 19).

## Out: the unfit and the corrupt

### NEW APPOINTEES

PRESIDENT MARCOS has appointed several replacements for those whose resignations were accepted:

□ National Administration Administrator Alfredo Junio as secretary of the Department of Public Works, Transportation and Communications;

□ Finance Undersecretary Alfredo Pio de Roda as acting commissioner of Customs;

□ Dean Jaime S. Laya as Budget Commissioner;

□ Associate Justice Francisco S. Tantuico of the Court of Appeals as chairman of the Commission on Audit;

□ Associate Justice Efen I. Plana as acting commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue;

□ Godofredo Asuncion as officer-in-charge of the Board of Transportation;

□ Celerino Carreon as acting director of the Bureau of Telecommunications; and

□ Joven Villaluz as officer-in-charge of the Board of Power and Waterworks.

THE MOMENT OF TRUTH came to 2,000 government officials and men, including six cabinet members, one undersecretary and 10 other ranking officials on Sept. 19, two days before the third anniversary of the New Society.

In his Report to the Nation at the Rizal Park, President Marcos announced a sweeping overhaul of the government machinery. It was the second big purge since martial law was declared on September 21, 1972.

The current revamp in the government was not a spur-of-the-moment decision. It took its initial toll in the relief of 99 city and municipal judges last month. And on Sept. 11, his 58th birthday, the President had announced the renewed drive against venalities and backsliding among government officials and employees.

In a strongly-worded Letter of Instructions, he said that no less than a broad sweep was needed to check misconduct in the government and to restore the declining public confidence in public office. Targets of the Presidential directive were those guilty of conspicuous spending, unexplained wealth, incompetence and those involved in graft and corruption. A Presidential commit-

tee had been created to receive recommendations from the bureaucracy, on behalf of the President. Based on the recommendations, cases of those guilty were thoroughly evaluated.

To start off the massive housecleaning, the President accepted the resignations of the following:

Audit Commissioner Ismael Mathay Sr. and his three sons; Revenue Commissioner Misael Vera; Customs Commissioner Rolando Geotina; Defense Undersecretary Manuel Salientes and other ranking officials under his command; Public Works, Transportation and Communications Secretary David M. Consunji; Public Works Director Desiderio Anolin; the whole force of the Board of Transportation which includes BOT Chairman Cesar S. de Guzman; Land Transportation Commissioner Romeo Edu; Bureau of Telecommunications Director Pedro Villaseñor; Public Highways Secretary Baltazar Aquino; all commissioners of the Civil Service Commission, with the exception of the newly-appointed CSC Chairman Jacobo Clave; and Securities and Exchange Commissioner Arcadio Yabiyabin.

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LETTER FROM A REGION □

## Progress comes to Tawi-Tawi

Bongao, Tawi-Tawi (PNA) — He is a full-fledged colonel and once slept in the quarters of a rebel leader. It was a risky thing to do, considering the bitterness and hostility that hung heavy in the air at that time in Tawi-Tawi. Nonetheless, Col. Teofisto L. Gaurano, deputy commander of the Sulu Sea Frontier Command (SUSEFCOM), went through with it, if only to demonstrate that the government is sincere in accepting the return of insurgents to the fold of the law.

Nothing happened that night. But something did happen afterwards. Gerry Matba, alias Commander Gerry of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), surrendered shortly after the "sleep-in" of Gaurano, along with his 250 fully-armed followers. With Matba commanding the biggest following in Tawi-

Tawi, his surrender was followed suit by almost 1,500 rebels.

The surrender of Matba, a former school teacher who joined the MNLF to dramatize the clamor for reforms and more government attention to the less developed Muslim areas, created a chain of positive reactions. Paramount of these was the clearing away of the doubts among Muslims over the sincerity of the government. "We came here not to add fire to the root causes of insurgency, but to build a viable and strong development foundation," said Gaurano.

Restoring peace and order, he added, was principally a goal of "peace negotiation tactical operation."

In addition to Matba, other prominent rebel commanders who had surrendered were Roxas Sali and Muham-

mad Sali Baliauddin. No less than President Marcos commissioned them recently as second lieutenants in the Philippine Army. Some 15 other rebel leaders are currently undergoing military training in Manila.

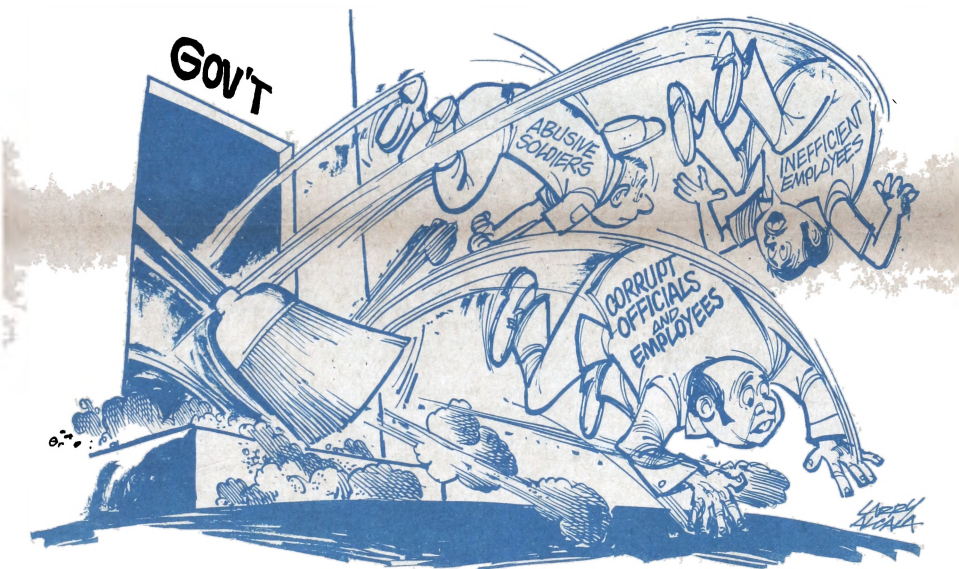
While SUSEFCOM placed priority on its pacification offensive it was not however remiss in its other mission.

To date, at least 64 development projects, most of them completed, are gradually changing the outlook of some 200,000 residents in the island who had rarely experienced government response to their problems before. A total of 2.7 million have been poured into a wide array of investments ranging from the construction of prefab school buildings to the cultivation of agar-agar. One such project is the opening of a 10-kilometer

road starting from the poblacion of Bongao going up to Bahut where a bridge is undergoing construction. Designed as farm-to-market road, it was finished with only picks and shovels.

The newly-created province of Tawi-Tawi has shown a tremendous capacity to surge toward the goal of social and economic development launched by SUSEFCOM. Tawi-Tawi used to be a part of the Sulu Province. By virtue of Presidential Decree No. 302 issued on September 11 this year, it became a province.

Among the reasons behind the promulgation of the decree was that the cluster of islands comprising the Tawi-Tawi group are distant from the seat of the provincial government of Sulu, and communications were so difficult.



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The second batch included one each from the Immigration Commission, Special Security Commission, Office of the President, National Economic and Development Authority, Citizens Legal Assistance Office, Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Public Works, Bureau of Telecommunications, Department of Health, Department of Trade, Department of Local Government and Community Development, Home Financing Commission, State University; 14 from the Department of Justice; 18, Land Registration Commission; 5, Department of Agriculture; 3, Bureau of Fisheries; 6, Bureau of Forest Development; 5, Bureau of Posts; 31, Land Transportation Commission; 85, Department of Public Highways; and 81, Commission on Audit.

The resigned officials also included 12 judges of the Court of First Instance; three from the city fiscal's office, three

assistant city fiscals, six provincial fiscals; five municipal judges and 17 registrars of deeds.

The President also announced the retirement of Education and Culture Secretary Juan Manuel, Health Secretary Clemente Gatmaitan and Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, and at the same time praised them for their "unblemished and dedicated services to the Republic long after they had reached the retirement age of 65 and had served with distinction the goals of reform and change of our New Society."

In a similar move, the President elevated to cabinet status Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza "in view of his exemplary service to the Philippine Republic not only in the conduct of legal defense of the Republic in our courts but also in legal conferences and forums outside the Philippines."

However, those who have gotten

the presidential ax comprise only a part of a massive overhaul in the government which will eventually see a total change in public service. The lower ranks of the civil service will not be spared; replacements for the corrupt and backsliders will be announced in due time.

In justifying his course of action, the President said: "I have warned, scolded, cajoled, reprimanded. "Now it is time to cut off the infected parts of the society from active public life before they endanger the entire body politic.

"This has been my painful duty as the head of the government and of the state. For the last three years, I have been watching the conduct of officers and employees in the national as well as the local governments. It is my duty as President of the Republic of the Philippines to reward what is proper, dedicated, devoted service by our public ser-

vants, and by the same token, to punish any violation of the sacred trust by a public official."

To those who have been found to have committed inequities or corruption in public office, the President said that not only were all their resignations approved but they would also face charges before the military court and would therefore be subsequently arrested and detained. Already, he has directed Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile to probe the Office of the Undersecretary of Munitions which allegedly has misused the procurement of government materials.

As the big purge continues, other government departments, bureaus, agencies and offices would be affected, including the military organization. What has been started during the Rizal Park rite is only the beginning.

—JUANITA G. TRINIDAD