

PRESS RELEASE

BI Welcomes Deputy Commissioners

President Rodrigo Duterte has appointed two lawyers as the new deputy commissioners of the Bureau of Immigration (BI), it was announced yesterday.

BI Commissioner Jaime Morente disclosed that the President signed the appointments of lawyers Michael Robles and Al Argosino last week.

Thus, the composition of the three-man BI Board of Commissioners, with Morente as chair, is now complete.

Before the duo's appointment, the board only had Morente and lawyer Jose Carlitos Licas, a BI career officer who was named OIC Deputy Commissioner by Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre, as member.

Argosino graduated from the San Beda College of Law while Robles graduated from the San Sebastian College of Law. Both are veteran law practitioners before joining the bureau.

Born in Calapan, Oriental Mindoro, Robles obtained his economics degree at San Beda before passing the Bar in 2000.

He is a veteran government lawyer who served as prosecutor for many years and for which he was cited for his efficient performance as reviewing fiscal and achieving the highest percentage of resolved cases.

Robles first worked as a Legal Researcher in a private law firm and in 2001 he joined the government as Attorney IV in the Court of Appeals.

He then served as Clerk of Court in the Manila Regional Trial Court and then as Pasig City Prosecutor and Senior Assistant City Prosecutor.

A long-time private law practitioner, Argosino, who hails from Quezon, obtained his business management and law degrees at San Beda before passing the Bar in 1994.

He began his legal career in government by serving as Legal Officer for then Senator John Osmeña and Head Executive Assistant of then Senator Orlando Mercado.

Aside from drafting Senate bills and resolutions, Argosino performed liaison and coordination works with other Senators and Legislative and Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC).

He then shifted to private law practice where he handled various court cases in the fields of labor, immigration, construction arbitration, and corporate matters.

Commissioner Morente welcomed the new Deputy Commissioners and said "now that the Board is complete, we can work together and immediately implement the directives of the President for a more efficient, effective and corrupt-free immigration service."