



Republic of the Philippines  
**COMMISSION ON AUDIT**  
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### **CA confirms COA Commissioner Fabia in record time**

Newly appointed Commission on Audit (COA) Commissioner Jose A. Fabia was unanimously confirmed in his first appearance before the Commission on Appointments (CA) on June 11, 2014.

Fabia, who was appointed to COA on May 2, 2014, breezed through the confirmation process without any opposition and any objection.

The Committee on Constitutional Commissions and Offices recommended his confirmation in the morning and his appointment was subsequently confirmed in the plenary session on the same day.

“He has a track record of being an entrepreneurial government executive with a legal mind and an innovative spirit,” said Sen. Teofisto L. Guingona III during his sponsorship speech in the plenary.

Sen. Guingona said that Fabia embodies a leader who takes initiative in planning and implementing innovative programs in governance, and with his varied track record, he is an asset and a worthy addition to the COA.

“The high positions he held in the government surely exposed him to public accountability and transparency in the disbursement of government funds,” the senator said, adding that Fabia is certainly proficient in the proper accounting and auditing of government funds.

Fabia, whose term will expire on February 2, 2020, brings to the COA his 31 years of varied experience in law, management, governance issues, business, communications, migration, and healthcare.

Notable among his credentials are the innovative programs which he introduced in every government position he has held.

In his first stint in the government in 1987 up to 1991 as Assistant Secretary of Legal Affairs of the Department of Health, Fabia assisted in the crafting of the Generics Law, the Milk Code, and helped introduce amendments to the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.

At a time when there was a clamor for safe, effective and affordable drugs, Fabia helped shepherd the Generics Law and its implementing rules and regulations. When there was a demand for clean, honest government, he reviewed internal audit reports of the DOH and filed administrative cases against erring government officials.

As municipal mayor of Binmaley, Pangasinan from 1995 to 1998, he planned and implemented the Nutrition, Food, Environment and Medicare Program for the Indigents which won the Galing Pook Award as one of the best local government programs in the country for its innovation, sustainability, and replicability.

Fabia is a pioneer in providing health insurance to the poor.

As the founding President and Chief Executive Officer of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Philhealth), he developed the actuarial and organizational framework for the implementation of a universal health insurance program in the country.

In 1998 when he left Philhealth, poor Filipinos in 28 poorest provinces and four cities in the country, OFWs and their families were already covered by health insurance, and the private and government Medicare programs were already under Philhealth. He laid the foundation for one of the most successful and profitable government corporations in the country today.

In the Philippine Information Agency where he was Director-General from 2010 to 2012, he initiated the Anti-Drug Courier Program which won an Anvil Award in 2011 for successfully disabling illegal drug trafficking syndicates through public information and education, resulting in an 82% decrease in drug trafficking cases in 2011.

He also introduced Text Blast and created the Facebook page Weather Watch which had huge impact on information dissemination campaigns of the government especially in disaster preparedness. The use of text

messaging to warn Filipinos in the path of danger during calamities is now being institutionalized by a bill in Congress making mandatory for telecommunication companies to send these messages for free.

Fabia holds a Master's degree in Entrepreneurship (with Superior Distinction) from the Asian Institute of Management, a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Santo Tomas. He passed the Bar in 1982 with flying colors.

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