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## DTI Family welcomes Secretary Alfredo E. Pascual



*Outgoing DTI Secretary Ramon M. Lopez hands over the DTI Flag to incoming DTI Secretary Alfredo E. Pascual as a symbol of transition of leadership during a turnover ceremony on 29 June 2022 at the Board of Investments (BOI) Audio-Visual Room, Industry and Investments Building in Makati City.*

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) welcomed **Secretary Alfredo E. Pascual** during a turnover ceremony on 29 June 2022 at the Board of Investments (BOI) Audio-Visual Room in Makati City, as the Department wholeheartedly thanked former **DTI Secretary Ramon M. Lopez** for all his hard work and successes in the past six years.

During the occasion, outgoing **DTI Secretary Ramon M. Lopez** said he is turning over the leadership of the Department from one “good man” to a “better man,” believing that the new Secretary would do more for the country.

*“Nang marinig ko po na si Secretary Fred ang napiling papalit sa akin, ako po ay talagang nasiyahan dahil naniniwala akong mas hihigitan pa niya ang mga nagawa ng DTI,”* the former Trade Chief said.

In his farewell speech to the DTI Family, Lopez thanked the Department for his successful and meaningful career in the past six years. *“Malaking pasasalamat for the past six years. I will always say this is the best six years in my career. This is the past six years that really I felt a lot of fulfillment, meaningful service, lalo na nakakapagserbisyo tayo sa tao,”* he said.



*Outgoing DTI Secretary Ramon M. Lopez (sitting, 3<sup>rd</sup> from left) and incoming DTI Secretary Alfredo E. Pascual (sitting, 3<sup>rd</sup> from left) are flanked by other members of the DTI Executive Committee. (Sitting, L-R): Competitiveness and Innovation Group (CIG) Undersecretary Rafaelita M. Aldaba; Consumer Protection Group (CPG) Undersecretary Ruth B. Castelo; Regional Operations Group (ROG) Undersecretary Blesila A. Lantayona; Special Concerns Undersecretary Ameenah A. Fajardo; standing (L-R): CIG Assistant Secretary Napoleon K. Juanillo Jr.; CPG Assistant Secretary Ronnel O. Abrenica; Industry Development and Trade Policy Group (IDTPG) Undersecretary Ceferino S. Rodolfo; Office of the Secretary (OSEC) Chief of Staff and Management Services Group (MSG) Undersecretary Ireneo V. Vizmonte; CPG Assistant Secretary Ann Claire C. Cabochan; ROG Assistant Secretary Domingo R. Tolentino Jr.; Trade Promotions Group (TPG) Officer-in-Charge and Assistant Secretary Rosario Virginia C. Gaetos; Foreign Trade Service Corps (FTSC) Assistant Secretary Glenn G. Peñaranda; ROG Assistant Secretary Demphna Du-Naga; OSEC Assistant Secretary Mary Jean T. Pacheco; and OSEC Assistant Secretary Joan Karen A. Riola.*

In his acceptance speech, Secretary Pascual said, *“It is an honor and privilege for me to be allowed to serve our country particularly in this time of pandemic recovery and new emerging uncertainties.”*

The new Secretary outlined his initial priority plans for the Department for the next six years, namely 1) support the micro, small, and medium enterprises; 2) promote manufacturing; 3) improve the ease of doing business; 4) attract investments; 5) expand exports; and 6) realign DTI’s organizational structure and processes.

Emphasizing the need to look at DTI as an organization, Sec. Pascual pointed out the shift towards digital technology and therefore the urgency to gear up the Department’s expertise on this particular area.

*“As the country moves into its recovery and expansionary mode, we will do this review and see how we can contribute seamlessly and in timely fashion for the implementations of the initiatives I earlier discussed. The tweaking of workforce budget may be needed,”* the new Trade Chief said.

*“My approach to organization is that I don’t believe too much in very hierarchical structure. That creates a lot of layers. I want to know right away if there is a problem. My door is open for direct communication by anyone who has something important to share, something that will help advance what we are doing for the country,”* Sec. Pascual added.

He expressed his belief in an agile organization, which is a flat organization, and urged the DTI Family to have flexibility in organizing teams and taskforce and small groups to tackle problems regardless of the ranks.

*“I may be the Secretary who most of the time will be giving orders from behind but there will be time like a true general I will be leading from the front,”* he said.

Still looking inward, Sec. Pascual is bent on breaking down silos between departments, and between DTI and attached agencies. *“That’s the only way we can fully harness the capabilities of our people to address the problems that will come our way. The inter and intra agency and department functions and relationships may need to be clarified and realigned,”* he pointed out.

Before joining DTI, Sec. Pascual served as President of the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP).

Over the past four decades, he has contributed to society as a governance advocate, academic leader, international development banker, and management educator.

He served at four esteemed national and international institutions: the Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD) as President and CEO; University of the Philippines (UP) System as President, CEO, and Co-Chair; Asian Development Bank (ADB) as Division Director and Advisor; and Asian Institute of Management (AIM) as Finance Professor.

Prior to his ADB years, he was also among the pioneers of investment banking in the Philippines, holding executive functions in Bancom Development Corporation, RCBC Capital, and First Metro Investment Corporation.

Sec. Pascual obtained Bachelor of Science in Chemistry (cum laude) and Masters in Business Administration from U.P. In college, he was a science scholar and student leader.

Among his recent awards, he received the Presidential Lingkod Bayan Award, the Rotary Golden Wheel Award for Higher Education, and U.P. College of Business Administration Distinguished Alumnus Award.

In closing, he invited the DTI Family to join him in reigniting private sector businesses which, he said, are the country’s engines of growth. *“Run with me in resetting the momentum, not in a hundred-meter dash but in a sustained marathon of sorts, racing a multi-kilometer run challenge to rejuvenate the heart of the Philippine commerce and strengthen the muscle of industry coming from the devastation of the two-year pandemic and the other uncertainties we are facing,”* he said.

*“Now we are going to work together and in that regard I say we must succeed not because we have a reputation to protect but because we have a country to serve,”* Sec. Pascual ended.