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## DTI, DAP conduct MSME DevPlan National Validation Workshop



*Delegates from government agencies and private sector organizations posed for a photo opportunity during the MSME Development Plan 2023-2028 National Validation Workshop that was held on 16 October 2023 at the City Garden Grand Hotel, Makati City.*

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), in close coordination with the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP), held the National Validation Workshop for the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise Development Plan (MSMEDP) on 16 October 2023 at the City Garden Grand Hotel, Makati City.

The validation workshop aimed to facilitate collaborative dialogue among relevant offices, stakeholders, and private organizations to refine the draft MSMEDP 2023-2028. Its focus is to gather valuable insights and recommendations from a diverse group of people to identify potential gaps and areas of improvement within the plan.

The activity also ensured that MSMEDP address the needs, challenges, and opportunities faced by MSMEs across the country.

**Regional Operations Group Assistant Secretary Leonila T. Baluyut** underscored that MSMEDP will not just sustain but will take MSMEs to a new height taking into account the considerations within the context of digital and circular economy.

*“In this era of rapid digitalization, technological innovation, and a growing emphasis on sustainability, we stand on the brink of transformative change. We recognize the necessity for a comprehensive industrial transformation strategy tailored to the unique needs and challenges faced by Philippine MSMEs,”* said Asec. Baluyut in her keynote

DAP facilitated the drafting of MSMEDP 2023-2023. On the same note, the DTI-Bureau of Small and Medium Enterprise Development (BSMED) as the MSME Development Council Secretariat presided over the agenda covering the presentation of the draft, plenary discussion on MSMED vision, plan framework, and the next steps on how the participants' recommendations will reflect and be integrated into the final MSMEDP.

In closing, guest of honor **MSMED Council Vice Chairman and Private Sector Representative from Luzon Jose Ma. “Joey” Concepcion III** highlighted the importance of strengthening the Philippine economy by upscaling MSMEs and called for collaborative interventions by relevant sectors for a more robust economy.

*“I hope we continue to work as strong partners, paving the way for a wonderful economy, an economy where we create jobs for people and get them hired, more people are creating their own businesses, and developing what I call an enterprise Filipino mindset,”* said Concepcion.

The national validation workshop was facilitated by **DAP Fellow 1 Project Lead Ador G. Paulino** and attended by stakeholders and relevant organizations from the public and private sectors across the country.