

## DTI welcomes 2024 with renewed commitment



*Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Alfredo E. Pascual looked back on DTI's notable milestones in 2023 during the Special Flag Raising Ceremony held on 2 January 2023 via Zoom.*

**Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Alfredo E. Pascual** led the DTI's special flag raising ceremony on Monday, 2 January 2024 to welcome the new year with renewed commitment as the agency looked back on the milestones achieved in 2023.

In his message, the Secretary underscored DTI's significant achievements in 2023, reflecting the DTI's collective efforts in the pursuit of growth and economic development in the country.

*“In our pursuit of growth and economic development, we have diligently worked towards delivering on our mandates – boosting and enabling international trade, soliciting foreign investments, promoting industrialization driven by technology and innovation, improving the ease of doing business in our country, developing MSMEs and facilitating their digital transformation, streamlining logistics, and ensuring consumer protection and fair trade,”* Secretary Pascual said.

Notably on the international front, DTI successfully generated foreign investment leads and pledges amounting to USD72 Billion, involving more than 130 projects. In addition, major accomplishments include the ratification of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the completion of the Philippine-South Korea free trade agreement signed on September 2023, and the conclusion of negotiation on the Supply Chain Agreement – 2nd pillar of the Indo-Pacific Economic Partnership (IPEF), to name a few.

Moreover, the Department commits to create more capacity-building projects and programs for the development of the micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) sector in 2024. Secretary Pascual recalled various initiatives in 2023 that will bring forward the Philippines in the global market. These include the Philippine Halal Ecosystem aimed to position the country as a Halal-friendly investment hub in the ASEAN market, the Philippine Creative Industries Development Act (PCIDA) to foster growth of the creative industries, the One-Town-One-Product (OTOP) Law to empower MSMEs, the establishment of the web-based consumer complaint portal for a seamless complaints handling, and notably its recent certification as a Great Place To work (GPTW).

These achievements, he said, exemplify the Department’s commitment to growth, development, and in building a better nation as we march towards Bagong Pilipinas (New Philippines).

In closing, he rallied the DTI family to pursue bigger goals and surpass the Department’s 2023 accomplishments, with the vision of *‘matatag, maginhawa, at panatag na buhay para sa ating mga kababayan.’*

Led by the DTI-Office of the Secretary (OSEC), the special flag raising ceremony was joined by other DTI Executive Committee members including **International Trade Policy Group (ITPG) Undersecretary Allan B. Gepty, Consumer Protection Group (CPG) Undersecretary Mary Jean T. Pacheco, Office of the Secretary (OSEC) Assistant Secretary Michel Kristian R. Abalan, CPG Assistant Secretary Amanda Marie F. Nograles**, other DTI officials and employees from DTI bureaus and offices.