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895.3198 / 890.4861 (tel)
CB@dti.gov.ph / www.dti.gov.ph

 /DTI.Philippines  @DTIPhilippines  @DTI.Philippines  /DTIPhilippines



President Duterte appoints former DTI ASec Perez as ARTA DDG

By CJ Calimbas



MANILA CITY- President Rodrigo Roa Duterte formally appointed former Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Assistant Secretary Ernesto V. Perez as Deputy Director General (DDG) and subsequently designated as Officer-In-Charge (OIC) of the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) through a memorandum from the Office of the Executive Secretary issued on December 18, 2018.

A government agency created under Section 17 of R.A. 11032 or the “Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018”, ARTA’s mandate is to implement a national policy on anti-red tape and ease of doing business and promote reforms and initiatives aimed at improving the competitiveness ranking of the Philippines.

The law was created in line with President Duterte’s statement and directive during his first State of the Nation Address in July 2016 to “enhance local business environment by addressing bottlenecks in business registration and processing, streamlining investment application process and integration of the services of various government offices”.

Furthermore, DDG Perez’s appointment came as the government pushes for the full implementation of R.A. 11032 along with its other initiatives such as the Philippine Business Databank and the Central Business Portal which shall be developed by the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT).

“I wish to thank the President for approving the recommendation of the Executive Secretary, so that we can now proceed with the tedious process of implementing the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Delivery of Government Services Act. Our people deserve no less, and with the directive of the President to ensure the ease of doing business as well as the full backing of all the stakeholders, we cannot fail in our mission because we are determined to serve best with passion and integrity”, DDG Perez expressed on a Facebook post.

As ARTA OIC, DDG Perez is expected to prepare the organizational structure of the agency, and draft the implementing rules and regulation (IRR) of R.A. 11032 together with the Civil Service Commission and DTI, and in coordination with the Department of Finance, Department of Interior and Local Government, DICT, National Economic and Development Authority, Philippine Statistics Authority, Cooperative Development Authority, Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of the Ombudsman, Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines.

However, the approval and promulgation of the organizational structure, and the IRR shall be reserved for the permanent Director General to be appointed by the President.

“This landmark legislation, once fully implemented in 3 years or before the end of President’s term in 2022, will improve significantly our people’s standard of living and our country’s world rating in terms of doing business”, DDG Perez ended his post.

Prior to his appointment as ARTA OIC and DDG, Perez was appointed in January 2017 as DTI Assistant Secretary for the Consumer Protection Group. Before he ventured into public service, DDG Perez practiced his profession in law and accountancy, and was a lecturer in the Polytechnic University of the Philippines College of Law from 2009-2014.

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