

President Duterte names ARTA czar

5 July 2019 – President Rodrigo Duterte appointed former consultant to the Office of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission (PAOCC) Jeremiah Belgica as the first Director General of the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) on 3 July 2019. Belgica will take his oath on 9 July 2019 and will assume office the following day.

This, more than a year after RA 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018, the law under which the Authority was created, was signed on 28 May 2018 and took effect in 17 June 2018.

Belgica is the Founder and Chairman of Kabataang Bagong Buhay, an organization awarded as one of the Ten Accomplished Youth Organization of the National Capital Region. He was a professor of San Beda College, College of Arts and Sciences from 2010 to 2015, teaching taxation and business law. Prior to that, he also served as the youngest consultant to the PAOCC from 2008 to 2010.

He is also the younger brother of Greco Belgica who currently serves as one of the commissioners of the Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission.

For the past year, the Authority was headed by former Department of Trade and Industry – Consumer Protection Group Assistant Secretary Ernesto V. Perez, who was appointed as Deputy Director General and Officer-in-Charge in December last year.

Despite being on its infancy stage and while previously awaiting the appointment of a permanent Director General, ARTA has already taken the foundational steps to being a fully functional agency. It had its organizational structure and staffing pattern recently approved by the Department of Budget and Management last 29 March 2019.

Now, with the appointment of Director General Jeremiah Belgica, the Authority is further determined to continue fulfilling its mandate to implement a national policy on anti-red tape and ease of doing business, and to promote reforms and initiatives aimed at improving the competitiveness ranking of the Philippines.

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