

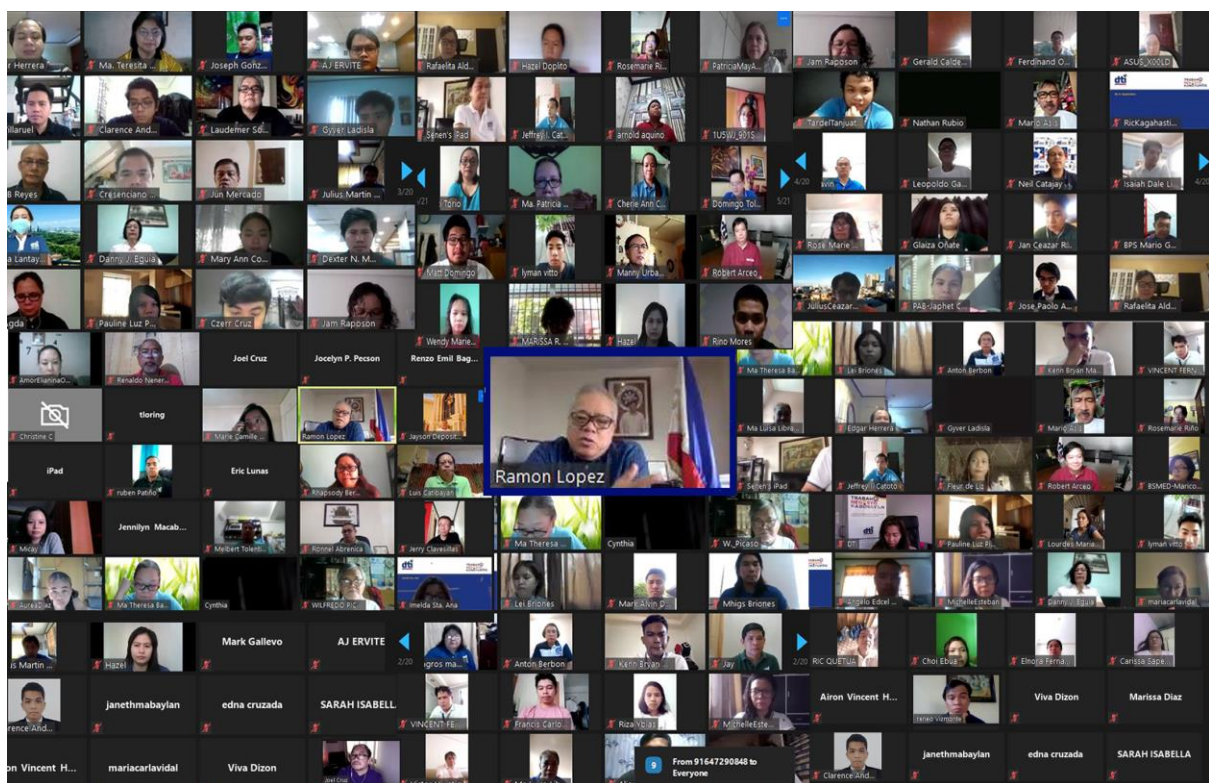
# What's Up @ dti PHILIPPINES

An internal information service by the Knowledge Management and Information Service for DTI Employees

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## DTI holds first virtual flag ceremony

Led by **Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Ramon M. Lopez** himself, the Department held its first virtual ceremony on Monday, 18 May 2020 that was participated in by 445 employees who are mostly on a work-from-home (WFH) arrangement due to the COVID-19 crisis.



*The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) conducts its first online flag ceremony on 18 May 2020 using the Zoom platform amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.*

In his message, Secretary Lopez wished the DTI Family the best of health and asked for everyone's safety as the Department continues to deliver its services to all stakeholders under the "new normal" scenario. He commended the DTI employees and officers, those in the frontline, skeleton workforce, and WFH, who have been highly essential in helping the country battle the effects of the pandemic.

*"Lahat po kayong nagsisilbi para sa bayan, maraming salamat po sa inyo,"* said Secretary Lopez in his heartfelt gratitude to the men and women of DTI who continue to perform since day one of the community quarantine.

The Secretary cited the Department's critical roles in the context of ensuring the supplies of essential goods and medicines, keeping the prices in check, as well as in establishing policies that will help the country's micro, small, and medium enterprises

Do you have an inspiring story to share with the DTI family? Is there a DTI staff or experience you want to brag about? Please tell us by e-mail to [KMIS@dti.gov.ph](mailto:KMIS@dti.gov.ph)

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(MSMEs) cope up with the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, among others.

Secretary Lopez has called for laying out best practices as the Department transitions into a pro-active agency in its response to deliver its mandate under the “new normal” economy.

As a concluding part of the ceremony, **Management Services Group (MSG) Undersecretary Ireneo V. Vizmonte** accommodated some questions from the employees on concerns related to operations amidst the community quarantine, as assisted by **Human Resource and Administrative Service (HRAS) Director Joel R. Cruz**.

Director Cruz cited some of the provisions contained in Department Order 20-44 s. 2020 which stipulates the guidelines on alternative work arrangements, workplace protocols and health standards in DTI during the period of public health emergency.

The said DO, which is anchored on three guiding principles of critical service continuity, optimized lean management, and a reinforced culture of safety and wellness, covers all DTI officials and employees regardless of status of appointment (permanent, temporary, coterminous, contractual and fixed term) whose offices are located at areas placed under Community Quarantine (CQ).

Under the DO, all DTI Officials and employees, including JO/COS workers, shall follow the minimum public health standards based on non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs), and employ the necessary measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 infection in the workplace.

Workplace protocols include provisions on skeleton workforce, requirements upon entry, cleaning and disinfection of the work environment, guidelines for employees and general hygienic measures, social distancing measures, and contact tracing protocols.

Identified support mechanisms, on the other hand, include the provision of transportation to all skeleton workforce, technological support such as IT assistance, medical wellness, and learning and development.

Everyone is enjoined to abide by these guidelines, in consonance with other government policies and regulations to help mitigate and suppress the transmission of infectious diseases, specifically COVID-19, and to ease transition to the new normal in terms of work arrangements and workplace practices.