

HON. RAMON M. LOPEZ

Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry



He started a solid professional economic, trade and industry development career in government from (1981-1993). Presidential Management Staff (1981), the Department of Trade and Industry (1982-1989) and NEDA (1989-1993). He has extensive experience in trade and industry development planning, at the forefront of the Tariff Reform Program, Industry development programs, setting up of ASEAN and APEC cooperation programs, technical studies on Countervailing Duty cases, critical consumer products' price structures and the development of the Foreign Investment Act. This included policy and program development, and project evaluation functions.

This was followed by a continuous career in the business sector (1994-June 2016), with over 22 years of experience, having been a top executive of RFM Corporation wherein he covered strategic planning and business development, marketing, mergers and acquisitions and equity investors group.

Simultaneously, he has been the Executive Director of the advocacy group Go Negosyo for the past 11 years (October 2005- June 2016), initiating and implementing all its programs that empower the youth and aspiring entrepreneurs, micro and small entrepreneurs, the underprivileged sectors such as the PWDs, women and out-of-school youths. For the past 3 years, he has been co-hosting the weekly Go Negosyo radio program. He has also been giving lectures and mentoring to tens of thousands of entrepreneurs through Go Negosyo seminars, workshops, summits, books and social media.

With this extensive amount of experience in various government agencies, private sector and non-government organizations, Lopez has gained the admiration and respect of the business, financial and investor communities in the Philippines and abroad.

Ramon M. Lopez topped his Master in Development Economics at Williams College in Massachusetts, USA (1988) and finished his AB Economics degree at the University of the Philippines, Diliman (1981).

The authority and responsibility for the exercise of the DTI mandate is vested in the Secretary who, like his predecessors, is a Presidential appointee who serves office at the pleasure of the President.

The Secretary, as the DTI Department head, has the authority and responsibility for the discharge of DTI powers and functions.

Specifically, his functions are:

- To advise the President of the Philippines on matters related to trade and investments, and industry, and on the promulgation of Department orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances related to trade, industry, and investments
- To establish policies and standards for the effective, efficient, and economical operations of the Department in accordance with government programs
- To supervise and control all offices, functions, and activities of the Department

- To delegate authority for the performance of any administrative or substantive function to any Undersecretary or other officials of rank at the Department
- To ensure the clear delineation of the functions of personnel and constituent units of the Department, including its attached agencies to prevent task duplication or overlapping