

RAMON M. LOPEZ

SECRETARY DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY



Ramon M. Lopez started a solid professional economic, trade and industry development career in the government in 1981. He worked at the Presidential Management Staff Office (1981), the Department of Trade and Industry (1982-1989), and the National Economic and Development Authority (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 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) 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.

His government work was followed by a continuous career in the business sector from 1994 to June 2016, with over 22 years of experience as a top executive of RFM Corporation, covering strategic planning and business development, marketing, mergers and acquisitions and equity investors group.

He was the Executive Director of the advocacy group Go Negosyo for the past 11 years (October 2005 to June 2016), initiating and implementing all its programs that empower the youth and aspiring entrepreneurs, micro and small entrepreneurs, the unprivileged sectors such as the PWDs, women and out-of-school youths. For the past three years, he was co-hosting the weekly Go Negosyo radio program at DZRH. 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 his extensive experience in various government agencies, private sector and a dynamic entrepreneurship advocacy group, Lopez has gained the admiration and respect of the business, financial and investor communities in the Philippines and abroad.

This could have led to his nomination and eventual appointment as the Secretary of Trade and Industry under the new administration of the popularly-elected President Rodrigo Roa Duterte.

As Trade and Industry Secretary, he serves as Chairman of the ASEAN Economic Ministers as the Philippines assumes chairmanship of ASEAN for 2017. He chairs important advisory boards and councils including the Board of Investments, Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), Micro SME Development Council, Export Development Council and the Industry Development Council, to name a few. In his capacity as the trade chief, he is also among the APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade and has been invited to be a part of the World Economic Forum (WEF) and to be a founding member of the WEF-ASEAN Regional Strategy Group and Stewardship Board for International Trade and Investment System.

Ramon M. Lopez topped his Masters in Development Economics at Williams College in Massachusetts, USA in 1988 and finished his AB Economics degree at the University of the Philippines' School of Economics in 1981. He was recently recognized as one of the Outstanding Alumnus of the school.