

RAMON M. LOPEZ
Secretary
Department of Trade and Industry



Age: 58

Date of appointment: 30 June 2016

Trade and Industry Secretary Ramon M. Lopez launched his career in the field of economics, trade and industry development back in 1981 when he joined as member of the Presidential Management Staff. Retaining the flexibility to serve in the government, this was followed by his stint in the Department of Trade and Industry from 1982 to 1989. In the same year, he transferred to National Economic and Development Authority and served the economic planning arm of the government holding a key position until 1993.

His acumen in trade and industry development planning brought him to the forefront of the Tariff Reform Program. He also set up various ASEAN and APEC cooperation programs, technical studies on countervailing duty cases, critical consumer products' price structures and the development of the Foreign Investment Act.

These stints in consultancy and program development were followed by a thriving career in the business sector from 1994 to 2016, adding more than 22 years in his business leadership portfolio. He held the position of top executive of RFM Corporation where he led core operations such as strategic planning and business development, marketing, mergers and acquisitions and equity investment.

Concurrent with his DTI appointment, he is the Executive Director of the advocacy group Go Negosyo. For the past 11 years (October 2005- June 2016), he has been initiating and implementing all its programs aimed at empowering the youth and aspiring entrepreneurs, small-scale entrepreneurs, and underprivileged sectors such as the PWDs and out-of-school youths. For the past three years, he has been co-hosting the weekly Go Negosyo radio program and on the side, giving lectures and mentoring thousands of aspiring entrepreneurs through Go Negosyo's seminars, workshops, summits, books and social media presence.

Sec. Lopez earned his Master in Development Economics (MDE) at Williams College in Massachusetts, USA in 1988 and his AB in Economics at the University of the Philippines Diliman in 1981.