

**PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC BRIEFING - ILOILO**  
*Agenda for Prosperity: Economic Transformation  
toward Inclusivity and Sustainability*

Iloilo Grand Ballroom, Courtyard by Marriott Iloilo  
11 December 2023

9:00 AM	<b>Opening Remarks</b>  <b>ELI M. REMOLONA, JR., PhD</b> <i>Governor</i> Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
9:10 AM	<b>Keynote Message</b>  <b>HON. FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ</b> <i>Speaker of the House of Representatives</i> <i>District Representative, Leyte 1<sup>st</sup> District</i>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Panel Discussion 1: A Fast-Growing and Forward-Looking Economy</b></p> <p>Amid a challenging global environment, the Philippine economy has successfully navigated through challenges and posted record-high growth in 2022. Sustained high levels of growth is a necessary condition to meet the economic objectives of economic and social transformation to reach upper middle-income country status by 2025, reduce poverty incidence to between 8 to 9 percent by 2028 and attain the Filipino people's aspiration of a Philippines that is a prosperous, predominantly middle-class society by 2040.</p>	
9:20 AM	<b>Presentation</b>  <b>BENJAMIN E. DIOKNO, PhD</b> <i>Secretary</i> Department of Finance
9:30 AM	<b>BENJAMIN E. DIOKNO, PhD</b> <i>Secretary</i> Department of Finance  <b>ELI M. REMOLONA, JR., PhD</b> <i>Governor</i> Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas  <b>AMENAH F. PANGANDAMAN</b> <i>Secretary</i> Department of Budget and Management  <b>JOBERT A. PEÑAFLORIDA</b> <i>Regional Governor</i> Philippine Chamber of Commerce & Industry - Western Visayas

### Panel Discussion 2: Building Better and Smarter for the Future

The establishment of sustainable, resilient, integrated, and modern infrastructure systems is crucial for driving economic transformation. With the Build Better More program, the Marcos, Jr. Administration aims to create a solid foundation for the future by implementing diversified and strategic infrastructure all throughout the country. In the medium term, the government will maintain infrastructure spending at 5 to 6 percent of GDP, encourage infrastructure investments, and explore viable funding methods to supplement public resources for financing crucial infrastructure initiatives to improve the lives of the Filipino people.

10:20 AM

**JAIME J. BAUTISTA**

*Secretary*

Department of Transportation

**IVAN JOHN E. UY**

*Secretary*

Department of Information and Communications Technology

**GIOVANNI CARLO J. BACORDO**

*Undersecretary*

Department of Energy

**ELEAZAR E. RICOTE**

*Assistant Secretary*

Public-Private Partnership Center

**SANNY BOY O. OROPEL**

*Regional Director*

Department of Public Works and Highways Region VI

**MA. LUISA C. SEGOVIA**

*Vice President*

Iloilo Business Club, Inc.

### Panel Discussion 3: Reinvigorate. Accelerate. Transform.

The government will build on the game-changing reforms pursued in the past and complement these with policies to enable open and competitive markets. The Philippines is open for business as it seeks to be among the most dynamic economies in Asia and the world. The goal is to make it easier for companies to compete and innovate and assure investors of lower transaction costs and a healthy regulatory environment. Key strategies to transform the economy include revitalizing industry, reinvigorating services and agriculture, and promoting and improving lifelong learning and education which are imperative to increasing the capacities and income-earning ability of the Filipino workforce.

11:10 AM

**MERCEDITA A. SOMBILLA, PhD**

*Undersecretary*

Department of Agriculture

	<p><b>WILFREDO E. CABRAL</b>  <i>Undersecretary</i>  Department of Education</p> <p><b>CEFERINO S. RODOLFO, DPA</b>  <i>Undersecretary</i>  Department of Trade and Industry</p> <p><b>MARLO L. IRINGAN</b>  <i>Undersecretary</i>  Department of the Interior and Local Government</p> <p><b>SHEREEN GAIL C. YU-PAMINTUAN</b>  <i>Undersecretary</i>  Department of Tourism</p> <p><b>PAUL VINCENT W. AÑOVER</b>  <i>Assistant Secretary</i>  Department of Labor and Employment</p> <p><b>FULBERT C. WOO</b>  <i>President</i>  Philippine Chamber of Commerce &amp; Industry - Iloilo Chapter, Inc.</p>
12:00 NN	<p><b>Closing and Thank Yous</b></p> <p><i>Moderator:</i>  <b>MARGAUX MARIE V. SALCEDO</b>  <i>Undersecretary</i>  Department of Budget and Management</p>

## SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

### Panel 1: A Fast-Growing and Forward-Looking Economy



#### **BENJAMIN E. DIOKNO, PhD**

Department of Finance

Dr. Diokno is the current Secretary of Finance. Prior to his appointment, he served as Governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) from 2019 to 2022. Under his leadership, the Philippine central bank was among the first to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and deploy decisive measures to cushion its adverse impact and pave the road to recovery.

Before taking charge of monetary affairs, he served as Budget Secretary under three presidents, where he pursued an expansionary fiscal policy to finance investments in human capital development and public infrastructure.


As Finance Secretary, Diokno seeks to rally the economic team to achieve three broad development goals by 2028: reduce the deficit-to-GDP ratio to pre-pandemic rates, bring down poverty incidence to single-digits, and achieve upper middle-income economy status by the end of the Marcos Jr. administration. Diokno seeks to go beyond headline economic expansion and achieve a brand of inclusive and sustainable growth with equity.

Diokno's policy expertise and research contribution extend to various areas of public economics, such as the structure and scope of government, tax policies and reforms, public expenditure management analysis, fiscal decentralization, national budget, and public debt, among other topics. He has vast experience in formulating and implementing public sector reforms, having also served as Budget Undersecretary from 1986 to 1991 and Budget Secretary from 1998 to 2001 and from 2016 to 2019.

He is Professor Emeritus of the University of the Philippines-Diliman. For over 40 years, he taught the following courses: Public Sector Economics, Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Development Economics, and Special Topics (e.g., Public Enterprises Investment and Pricing Policies; Public Sector Reforms; Local Government Finance). He was also Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the *Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila* (City University of Manila).

He served as Fiscal Adviser to the Philippine Senate. He also served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Philippine National Oil Company and Chairman of the Local Water Utilities Administration.

Some of his major policy reform contributions include: formulating the 1986 Tax Reform Program, which simplified the income tax system and introduced the value-added tax in the Philippines; helping design the 1991 Local Government Code of the Philippines; initiating a What-You-See-Is-What-You-Get policy to streamline the release of funds; and sponsoring the internationally lauded Government Procurement Reform Act to modernize, regulate, and standardize government procurement activities in the Philippines.

	<p>He served as an adviser and consultant to various multilateral agencies like the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Commission, and US Agency for International Development for work in the Philippines, China, and transitioning economies like Vietnam, Cambodia, and Mongolia.</p> <p>He has also participated in numerous international conferences hosted by the International Monetary Fund, Asian Development Bank, World Bank, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, and United Nations, among other international organizations. He authored numerous publications and discussion papers regarding his research interests that have been published in academic journals and policy reports.</p> <p>He finished his Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration (1968) and his Master's Degree in Public Administration (1970) and Economics (1974) at the University of the Philippines-Diliman. He also holds an MA in Political Economy (1976) from the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, USA and a PhD in Economics (1981) from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York, USA. In 2017, he received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines—the highest academic rank and honor conferred by the university.</p>
	<p><b>ELI M. REMOLONA, JR., PhD</b> Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas</p> <p>Dr. Eli Remolona is the seventh Governor of the BSP and Chairman of the Monetary Board, having been appointed in July 2023.</p> <p>A career central banker, Governor Remolona has extensive policy and operational experience in monetary policy and international finance, having worked for 19 years at the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) from 1999 to 2018 where he spent the last ten years working with monetary authorities on financial stability and capital development issues as BIS Asia and the Pacific regional head. Prior to this, he worked for 14 years for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York from 1985 to 1999.</p> <p>From 2019 to 2022, Governor Remolona served as a professor of finance and Director of Central Banking at the Asia School of Business in Kuala Lumpur from 2019 to 2022. He also taught various courses on international finance, monetary theory and policy, and development finance at Williams College, Columbia University, New York University, and the University of the Philippines-School of Economics. Governor Remolona has published papers tackling different facets of the bond markets, sovereign risk, and financial market communication, among others, and edited for leading economic and financial journals.</p> <p>Before his appointment to the Monetary Board in 2022, Governor Remolona served as Independent Director of a universal bank and Chairman of its risk management committee.</p> <p>He earned his PhD in Economics with distinction from Stanford University and obtained his bachelor's degree in Economics with honors from the Ateneo de Manila University.</p>



**AMENAH F. PANGANDAMAN**

Department of Budget and Management

Amenah F. Pangandaman is the incumbent Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). She is the first Muslim Budget Secretary and the only female member of the Philippines' economic team.

She carries with her 20 years of government service, having worked in the legislative and executive branches, and the Central Bank. Thus, her unparalleled expertise in the areas of policy governance, economics, and public fiscal management.

She rose through the ranks from being a research assistant to becoming Chief of Staff to the late Senate President Edgardo J. Angara. Prior to her appointment as Secretary of the DBM, she served as DBM Undersecretary and Assistant Governor at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

As the country's Budget Secretary, she is committed to supporting President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s administration towards a broad-based and inclusive economic recovery. She continuously champions financial inclusion and key budgetary reforms, such as Digitalization, Climate Change and Green Public Procurement, and Open Government Partnership to further promote fiscal transparency.

Secretary Pangandaman currently chairs the Development Budget Coordination Committee, which developed the Medium-Term Fiscal Framework and the country's 8-Point Socioeconomic Agenda. She also co-chairs the Intergovernmental Relations Body, strengthening relations for lasting peace and economic development in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.

Under her leadership, the national government has enacted the fastest national budget in recent history. She has been bestowed the Rising Tigers "Woman of Substance" award, the "Philippines' Women Leaders Award," and the "Tanglaw ng Bayan" award from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines. She dons the rank of Rear Admiral (two-star general) of the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary. Her weekly column, "Beyond Budget" keeps the public informed on the national budget and the country's economy.



**ATTY. JOBERT A. PEÑAFLORIDA**

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry - Western Visayas

Co-Chairman, Regional Development Council-Region 6, the highest policy-making body in Western Visayas and Chairman, Economic Development Committee, RDC Region 6.

Regional Governor, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI)-Region 6, with seven member chambers representing Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Capiz, Aklan, Antique, Guimaras and Boracay.

Completed basic education at the Ateneo de Iloilo as Class Valedictorian.

Completed Bachelor's degree in Accountancy Summa Cum Laude and awarded Most Outstanding Graduate of the University of San Agustin. Passed the CPA Board Examinations with a general average of 88.14%

	<p>and recipient of the SGV Gold Medal of Excellence for obtaining the Highest National Rating in Auditing. Awarded as One of the Outstanding Augustinian Alumni in 2014.</p> <p>Completed Law degree Magna Cum Laude and awarded Most Outstanding Graduate of the University of Iloilo. Successfully passed the 2000 Bar Examinations with a general average of 86.25%. Awarded Outstanding Alumnus of the University of Iloilo in 2007.</p> <p>Completed Master's degree in Business Management, with a general average of 1.29, at the University of the Philippines in the Visayas.</p> <p>Completed with high marks, as Japan Air Lines Scholar, Special Courses in Asian Studies at the Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan: Comparative Asian Economics and Management.</p> <p>Founding President of the Iloilo Festivals Foundation, Inc., organizer of Iloilo Dinagyang Festival, back-to-back awardee as 2020 &amp; 2021 Best Tourism Festival of the Philippines by the Association of Tourism Officers of the Philippines.</p> <p>Member of the Board of Regents, West Visayas State University and member of the Board of Trustees, Ateneo de Iloilo.</p> <p>Acquired varied, extensive, and valuable professional and managerial experiences in finance, business management, taxation and corporate law from the best firms and companies in the Philippines – SyCip Gorres Velayo (SGV) &amp; Co., San Miguel Corporation, KPMG, and SyCip, Salazar, Hernandez and Gatmaitan.</p> <p>Entrepreneur - presently serves as President and CEO of Fiesta! Favorite Souvenirs, with outlets in Metro Manila, Iloilo &amp; Boracay, awarded as One of the 2023 Most Inspiring Tourism by the Department of Tourism and Go Negosyo.</p> <p>Multi-awarded print and broadcast journalist. Former News Anchor, ABS-CBN TV Patrol Panay and GMA 24 Oras Western Visayas. KBP National Finalist for Best News Anchor and Best Public Affairs Program Host. Three-time National Finalist, Best Opinion Column in the Catholic Mass Media Awards for print.</p> <p>Versatile and multi-awarded student journalist, campus leader, speaker and debater. Recipient of three Presidential Gold Medals as Most Outstanding Campus Writer in Western Visayas and as one of the Ten Most Outstanding Student Leaders of the Philippines.</p> <p>Happily married to Rhea Inocencio, a registered nurse and a former beauty queen (Miss Iloilo Dinagyang 1998) and one of the 2018 The Outstanding Women of Iloilo for Entrepreneurship, and a doting father to Ma. Abby Genevieve, a junior Entrepreneurship student at the De La Salle University.</p>
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## Panel Discussion 2: Building Better and Smarter for the Future

	<p><b>JAIME J. BAUTISTA</b> Department of Transportation</p> <p>The Secretary of Transportation has a solid grounding in transportation having spent more than three decades in the aviation sector, culminating in being president of Philippine Airlines.</p> <p>He has a strong financial management background, allowing him to steer PAL through its most turbulent times.</p> <p>He took on various posts at different companies. He succeeded at turning the University of the East financially stable when he sat at the UE Board of Directors for more than two decades.</p> <p>He is more of a professional manager rather than a technocrat.</p> <p>He dislikes being praised. He endears himself to anyone at any time. He is known for his humility and disarming smile. He is soft-spoken with a fantastic memory.</p>
	<p><b>IVAN JOHN E. UY</b> Department of Information and Communications Technology</p> <p>Secretary Ivan John E. Uy has an extensive career in the ICT industry and in public service. He specializes in information technology and its impact on law, justice, and governmental institutions.</p> <p>He was a Hubert Humphrey Fellow under the Fulbright Program in University of Minnesota and a graduate of the College of Law, University of the Philippines. As a public servant, Secretary Uy served as Chairman of the Commission on Information and Communications Technology, the predecessor of the Department of Information and Communications Technology. From 2011 to 2016, he led the formulation of the Philippine Digital Strategy. He also served as Chief Information/Technology Officer of the Judicial Branch, responsible for the overall technology strategy and implementation of the courts.</p>
	<p><b>VICE ADMIRAL GIOVANNI CARLO J. BACORDO (RET.)</b> Department of Energy</p> <p>Vice Admiral Giovanni Carlo J Bacordo (Retired) is the current Undersecretary for Security Concerns and Field Offices Operations of the Department of Energy. Prior to his appointment, he served as the 38th Flag Officer-In- Command of the Philippine Navy from 03 February 2020 up to 08 June 2021.</p> <p>He is a naval defense professional with 38 years of experience in command and leadership, both aboardship and ashore. His surface warfare expertise and leadership roles in key positions throughout his military career led him to consistently pursue and instigate vital acquisitions for the Navy's modernization program and transformation initiatives.</p> <p>As Undersecretary for Security Concerns, he is tasked by the Secretary of Energy to represent the Department in different security related bodies</p>



	<p>such as National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea, National Intelligence Board, National Cybersecurity Inter-Agency Committee and the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict.</p> <p>To ensure the sustainability of peace, unity, and development in the BARMM Region, Undersecretary Bacordo is the current permanent alternate representative to the Intergovernmental Relations Body and the Alternate Co-Chairperson for the National Government of the Intergovernmental Energy Board created by virtue of the Bangsamoro Organic Law.</p> <p>Undersecretary Bacordo also serves as the Alternate Chairperson of the Philippine National Oil Company-Exploration Corporation and Alternate Representative and Vice-Chairperson, National Power Board, National Power Corporation.</p>
	<p><b>ELEAZAR E. RICOTE</b> Public-Private Partnership Center</p> <p>Assistant Secretary (ASec) Eleazar E. Ricote is Deputy Executive Director at the Public-Private-Partnership Center (PPPC) of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).</p> <p>He is a Career Executive Service Officer (CESO II) with more than fifteen years of technical and managerial experience in infrastructure and development projects of national and local governments. Eli is a recognized infrastructure development professional in the country and the Association of Southeast Asian (ASEAN) region. He has officially represented the Philippines and the PPP Center in numerous national and international conferences and dialogues on ASEAN Connectivity, Infrastructure Development, and Finance, among others. He is an APMG International Certified PPP Professional.</p> <p>Eli is a scholar of public administration, governance, public policy, project management, local governance, PPPs, and related areas. He has delivered lectures and written/published several papers and research on the same topics. He is a faculty and research adviser at the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) Public Management Development Program (PMDP) and the Career Executive Service Board's (CESB) Integrated <i>Gabay ng Paglilingkod</i> Training Course for upcoming career officials in government.</p> <p>Eli has a degree in Political Science and a graduate degree in Public Administration from the University of the Philippines (UP). He also took executive courses on infrastructure finance, PPP, and related topics from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University (2014), The Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore (2017), The Newcastle University in the UK (2019), and the Carnegie Mellon University-Australia (2021).</p> <p>Eli was recognized as an Outstanding Alumnus at the University of the Philippines National College of Public Administration and Governance (UP-NCPAG) and as an ASEAN Leader under the Common Purpose and ASEAN Foundation Leadership Program.</p>



**SANNY BOY O. OROPEL, CESE**

Department of Public Works and Highways Region VI

Engineer Sanny Boy Osorio Orope, also known as SBO to many, was born in Isabela and raised in Escalante City, Negros Occidental. He has vast experience spanning forty-two (42) years, and his accomplishments and recognition accurately represent his qualifications and unrelenting commitment to his responsibilities across various DPWH Offices.

He embarked on his journey as Gen. Construction Foreman in 1984 and Civil Engineer II in 1988 in the Negros Occidental 1st District Engineering Office until he was promoted to the Engineer III position in 1992. He became a full-fledged Assistant District Engineer in 2001. His journey continued with his appointment as the OIC-District Engineer in 2003, wherein in the same year, he was awarded as the Outstanding Alumni of the University of Negros Occidental – Recoletos, Bacolod City, he was then promoted as District Engineer in 2006. He assumed the position of District Engineer for the Capiz 1st District Engineering Office in June 2012, he also served as the District Engineer for the Iloilo 2nd District Engineering Office for more than 5 years.

His remarkable journey continued as he assumed the position of Assistant Bureau Director of the Bureau of Maintenance on December 28, 2022. He subsequently became the OIC-Bureau Director of the Bureau of Quality and Safety on June 19, 2023. He has held the position of OIC-Regional Director of the DPWH Region VI on August 1, 2023.

RD Orope's exemplary performance has earned him prestigious awards and recognition. Notably, he received the Award of Distinction in 2004 from the Philippine Infrastructure Journal and was acknowledged for his top-ranking absorptive capacity in August 2020. His leadership role was evident when DPWH Negros Occidental 1st was recognized as the Outstanding Agency in Region VI in 2005, as reported by the DBM.

RD SBO's commitment to excellence was evident as he received the Most Outstanding Assistant District Engineer award from the Leadership Organization of the Philippines in both 2000 and 2001. His dedication was further acknowledged when he was named the Most Outstanding Public Servant by The Manila Times Newscaster National Weekly Newspaper in January 2005. RD Orope's exceptional achievements continued as he was recognized as the Outstanding District Engineer in multiple years, notably 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2008, in addition to being honored as the Top Performing Engineer in 2006.

Outside of his professional pursuits, RD SBO loves to play basketball on his spare time and an avid fan of the sport.



**MA. LUISA C. SECOVIA**


Iloilo Business Club, Inc.


Marissa, as she is fondly called is the President of the family-owned S&J Motors, Inc. and Treasurer of Dynasty Finance Corp., Inc. whose main offices are located in Iloilo City.


She is first and foremost an Ilonggo, a persevering volunteer and private sector representative pushing for progress and more investments in Iloilo City, Iloilo Province and Western Visayas through her various business and non-government organizations, among them the Iloilo Business

	<p>Club, Iloilo Government, Industry &amp; Academe Council (IGIAC), Iloilo Economic and Development Foundation, Inc. (ILEDf) and the Iloilo Dinagyang Foundation, Inc. (IDFI). Her volunteerism from 1997 to date has spanned over two (2) decades. In the RDC6 she currently serves as the Co-Chairperson of the Infrastructure Committee and the Chairperson of the Regional Culture, Heritage and Arts Committee (RCHAC). She is an elder of the Quota Club of Iloilo whose advocacy and support is primarily for the hearing impaired. The club conducts Linis-Tenga and recently have adopted three (3) public libraries in the City where members read to kids in an adjacent or nearby day care center.</p> <p>Ms. Segovia is still at the forefront of private sector representation in several private and public partnerships in her local, provincial and regional community, be it advisory, policy advocacy, investment, education reform, environment, culture, heritage &amp; arts endeavors.</p> <p>Marissa's dreams have come into fruition in so many forms through the support of her organizations and team members. In her senior years, she continues to dream about a better quality of life for all. Post-Covid, the Iloilo Business Club continue to be relevant by leading the way in unique collaborations and conversations with stakeholders. As VP of the organization, she mentors and engages individuals or groups regardless of age in various topics not necessarily related only to incoming investments but also to contribute to meaningful discussions to strengthen the over-all attractiveness and preparedness of our communities. Inasmuch as she is a volunteer for life, she must also be a learner for life, using the space and the people she meets through her interactions, collaborative work, and extensive networking.</p> <p>Marissa and the Iloilo Business Club under the INNOVATE ILOILO, SMART CITIES and MORE TO PROGRESS connectedness will continue to advocate for a better ILOILO and WESTERN VISAYAS for all. Collectively, they will continue to make a difference by helping push for ILOILO as a desired place to be for work, recreation, food, culture &amp; arts and even retirement.</p>
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### Panel Discussion 3: Reinvigorate. Accelerate. Transform.

	<p><b>MERCEDITA A. SOMBILLA, PhD</b> Department of Agriculture</p> <p>Dr. Sombilla joined the Department of Agriculture as the Undersecretary (<i>i.e., deputy minister</i>) for Policy, Planning, Research, and Regulations in 2022. Prior to her stint at the Department, she was Undersecretary for the Regional Development Group at the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), the country's premier socioeconomic planning body.</p> <p>Before rejoining the government in 2012, she was a full-time researcher and affiliated with various international research organizations, such as the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) based in USA, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) based in the Philippines, and the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) based also in the Philippines.</p>
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	<p>Undersecretary Sombilla obtained her Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Master's degree in Economics from the University of the Philippines, Diliman. She earned her Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural Economics at the University of Minnesota, USA.</p>
	<p><b>WILFREDO E. CABRAL, CESO III</b> Department of Education</p> <p>RD Willie or UWC (acronym for USec. Wilfredo Cabral), as he is fondly called, is currently the Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the Undersecretary for Human Resource and Organizational Development.</p> <p>He runs the operational activities and provide strategic directions and leadership to the Bureau of Human Resource and Organizational Development (BHROD), the National Educators Academy of the Philippines (NEAP), and the Teacher Education Council Secretariat (TECS).</p> <p>He was tasked to provide representation on the following: Advisory Committee on Science and Technology Scholarships, APEC Education Network (EDNET), APEC Human Resource Development Working Group (HRDWG), Commission on Filipinos Overseas, Department of Social Welfare and Development Technical Working Group for Solo Parents Welfare, Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP), First Time Jobseekers Assistance Inter-Agency Committee, Inter-Agency Task Force on the National Employment Recovery Strategy (NERS). He was also a member of the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF) Committee.</p> <p>He was also the principal representative on the following: Philippine Commission on Women- Inter-Agency Council on Violence against Women and Their Children (IACVAWC), SEAMEO Regional Center for Quality Improvement of Teachers and Educational Personnel in Language (QITEP in Language), (QITEP in Mathematics), and (QITEP in Science). He was also the lead focal on the following: SEAMEO Regional Training Center (RETRAC) Temasek Foundation International and Nanyang Polytechnic International Programme - DepEd Technical Working Group, and the TESDA Board - Teacher Education Council.</p> <p>Prior to these designations, he served as the Regional Director of the DepEd Region IV-A, CALABARZON. Although he has served the region for only a year, he is familiar with it, hailing from the neighboring MIMAROPA region.</p> <p>RD Willie/UWC holds a degree in Bachelor of Science in Education major in Mathematics and later earned his master's degree in the same field. He studied Doctor of Philosophy in Calapan City and also took up Doctorate in Educational Management in DWCC and at De la Salle Consortium.</p> <p>He rose from the ranks as an educator. From a humble teacher, he became a head teacher in Oriental Mindoro. In 2003, he got promoted as education supervisor and in 2006 as Assistant Schools Superintendent in DepEd Oriental Mindoro, which led him to the right kind of people and experiences.</p>

	<p>His professional journey as Schools Division Superintendent for three years in Occidental Mindoro, developed in him the right keen and sense on working with people, bringing about great ideas, that later on would be beneficial for his executive stint in the National Capital Region.</p> <p>In 2013, he began to set off big differences in the Schools Division of Valenzuela, and later on, assuming the concurrent post in 2015, as Officer-in-Charge for the Office of the Assistant Regional Director. With the multitude of challenges in a highly urbanized region, he worked his way with humor and humility. This proved how he successfully managed concurrent offices, with one of the largest Division, that of Manila.</p> <p>He assumed the office of the Regional Director after Dr. Ponciano A. Menguito's retirement in 2017. One indicator of the range and breath of RD Willie's knowledge and expertise is the fact that he has truly distinguished himself as an authority in governance matters in the Department. He was reassigned in DepEd CALABARZON on September 16, 2019 and recently moved back to NCR.</p> <p>He has worked with intuitiveness, practical mindset and creativity at the helm of organizational development in CALABARZON, as committed as he first came to work as a teacher. As he presently works for the welfare of the NCR learners and teachers, RD Willie dedicates himself in the service of the Filipino youth for the promotion of better quality of education.</p> <p>Lastly, he has twelve (12) years of institutional contribution in basic education as Career Executive Service Officer.</p>
	<p><b>CEFERINO S. RODOLFO, DPA</b> Department of Trade and Industry</p> <p>Undersecretary Ceferino S. Rodolfo – or Usec. Perry – obtained his Economics Degree from the School of Economics of the University of the Philippines and his Master of Science in Industrial Economics from the Center for Research and Communication (CRC), now known as the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&amp;P), on full scholarship from the Hanns Seidel Foundation of Germany. He holds a Doctorate degree in Public Administration from the National College of Public Administration and Governance of the University of the Philippines. He also took the International Faculty Development Program of the IESE Business School, in Barcelona, Spain, on scholarship from IESE; as well as the Strategic Management Program of the Industrial Management Institute in Tehran, Iran, on scholarship from the Islamic Development Bank.</p> <p>He joined the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) as Assistant Secretary in 2013, after 19 years in the Academe and Development Assistance-work. In 2016, Usec. Perry was appointed as Undersecretary and assumed leadership of the DTI's Industry Development and Trade Policy Group. In this capacity, he oversaw the development and execution of the Philippine industrial policy and the agenda for international trade negotiations and led the Philippine government's bilateral trade and investment engagements with key partner economies.</p> <p>Notable among Usec. Perry's accomplishments in the area of trade policy are the successful negotiation of the Philippines-European Free Trade</p>



	<p>Association Free Trade Agreement (PH-EFTA FTA), the Philippines' successful application to the EU GSP+ Program, and the conclusion of the Philippines-South Korea Free Trade Agreement (PH-ROK FTA). He also expanded the Philippines' network of official bilateral trade and investment cooperation agreements by negotiating and implementing new Joint Economic Commissions (JECs) and high-level dialogue mechanisms with Switzerland, Canada, Russia, Germany, Hungary, Czech Republic, Chile, Turkey, Pakistan, Australia, and South Korea. He led the Philippines' successful Trade Policy Review (TPR) Team that presented and defended our trade policies before the WTO in March 2018; as well as headed the Philippine Delegation to the WTO 12th Ministerial Conference in Geneva in June 2022.</p> <p>Moreover, as Managing Head of the Board of Investments, Usec. Perry has secured the highest investment registration in the Agency's 56-year history.</p> <p>In November 2023, Usec. Perry has been designated as Undersecretary for Industry Development, Trade and Investment Promotion. As such, in addition to industry development and investment promotion, he now oversees trade promotion – emphasizing the government's industry and investment-centric approach to export development.</p>
	<p><b>MARLO L. IRINGAN</b> Department of the Interior and Local Government</p> <p>Marlo L. Iringan is a distinguished public servant who has made significant contributions to the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) throughout his career. His journey began in 1989 when he joined the DILG as a Barangay Government Operations Officer (BCOO), demonstrating his commitment to serving his community and making a positive impact at the grassroots level. He is currently serving as the Undersecretary for Local Government of the Department since 2021.</p> <p>Despite starting at an entry-level position, Undersecretary Iringan's dedication, expertise, and strong work ethic propelled him through the ranks. With a background in civil engineering, he harnessed his design and systems thinking skills to assist local governments and contribute to the realization of the mandate of the Department.</p> <p>His exceptional abilities and potential were duly recognized, leading to a series of promotions and increased responsibilities within a relatively short span of time. He held various Director-level positions within the department, including LGOO VIII from 2010 to 2011, Director III from 2011 to 2015, and Director IV from 2015 to 2021. This rapid progression reflects both his exceptional capabilities and his unwavering commitment to delivering excellence in field operations and program implementation.</p> <p>Given his extensive experience in field operations and program management, Undersecretary Iringan plays a crucial role in shaping responsive policies and strategic direction as the Department continues to help develop our local communities. His journey exemplifies the transformative power of dedication, hard work, and a genuine desire to serve the public.</p>



**ATTY. SHEREEN GAIL C. YU-PAMINTUAN**

Department of Tourism

Atty. Shereen Gail C. Yu-Pamintuan is the Undersecretary for Finance and Administration of the Department of Tourism (DOT). Prior to joining the Department of Tourism, she was Partner at the Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc & De Los Angeles Law Office specializing in project development and finance.

Shereen Gail also served as the Executive Director of the League of Cities of the Philippines from 2016 to 2020 where she closely collaborated with city mayors across the Philippines in terms of policy formulation, advocacy, as well as the implementation of various capacity building programs together with local and international development partners.

She holds a Juris Doctor degree from the Ateneo School of Law where she graduated with honors.



**PAUL VINCENT W. AÑOVER**

Department of Labor and Employment

Assistant Secretary Paul Vincent W. Añover earned a Master of Administrative Law and Policy from the University of Sydney, Australia (2017), admission to the Bar (2009), a Juris Doctor from the Ateneo de Manila University (2008), and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science-Information Technology from De La Salle University - Manila (2003).

He performs advisory functions to the Office of the Secretary and the line offices within the Employment and Human Resource Development Cluster. His areas of expertise include the development of employment policies and strategies, as well as planning, implementation, and monitoring. He also provides policy and technical guidance and advice to public employment service offices, as well as knowledge sharing and networking. He chairs the Department's Technical Working Group on Digitalization, where he recommends strategies and projects for implementation and actively contributes to enhancing service delivery. He actively seeks out, researches, and engages in conversations and collaborations with experts and stakeholders from a variety of backgrounds where different fields, disciplines, or industries overlap and have the potential to combine and create new opportunities in the realm of work and employment.




**FULBERT C. WOO**

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry - Iloilo Chapter, Inc.

- President, New Prime Gas, Inc. – an oxygen/gas manufacturing company located in Lapuz, Iloilo City
- Current President of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry – Iloilo Chapter, Inc.
- Co-Chairman, Development Administration Committee – Regional Development Council VI
- Co-Chairman, Iloilo Provincial Micro, Small, Medium Enterprise Development Council
- Director, Philippine Red Cross – Iloilo Chapter
- Director, Federation Fire Volunteer Brigade

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director, Federation of Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry – Iloilo, Inc.</li> <li>• Director, Sun Yat Sen High School Alumni Association and Board of Trustees</li> <li>• Director, Iloilo City Tourism Council</li> <li>• 2009 National President of JCI Philippines</li> </ul>
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## MODERATOR

	<p><b>MARGAUX MARIE V. SALCEDO</b> Department of Budget and Management</p> <p>Margaux Salcedo is the Undersecretary at the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). She heads the Functional Group for Economic Affairs. She also heads the Functional Group for Advocacy and Stakeholder Relations, as well as Capacity Development.</p> <p>A communications expert, she was spokesperson of former President Joseph Estrada, media strategist for presidential and senatorial political campaigns, communications consultant of the DBM, news anchor of GMA News Live, and columnist of the Philippine Daily Inquirer before joining government full time.</p> <p>She is also the founding editor-in-chief of the award-winning Catholic website DominusEst.PH.</p> <p>She has a Juris Doctor from the Ateneo Law School, where she was Senior Associate Editor of the Ateneo Law Journal; and an Economics degree from De La Salle University.</p>
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