

# What's up @



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

## MSME Champion is the new DTI Secretary



**Secretary Ramon M. Lopez** took over the DTI leadership during a handover ceremony held last 1 July 2016 in Makati City.

During the simple rites, Secretary Lopez acknowledged the accomplishments of his predecessor during the last six months.

Lopez is a returning DTI official who previously headed the Department's Office of Operational Planning (now called Corporate Planning Service) before he moved to NEDA in 1989.

Prior to his appointment as DTI Secretary, he was Executive Director of the Philippine Center for

Entrepreneurship's (PCE) advocacy group, *Go Negosyo*. He has served in this capacity for the past 11 years, strongly advocating entrepreneurship and promoting the enterprising culture among Filipinos. He has been championing the cause of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) through the *Go Negosyo* radio program for three years and educating entrepreneurs through *Go Negosyo* seminars, workshops, summits, and other information, education and communication programs.

For 22 years, he has served the business sector as a top executive of RFM Corp. and handled strategic planning and business development, mergers and acquisitions, and equity investors group. He has earned the respect of the business, financial and investment communities here and abroad.

Secretary Lopez finished his Master's in Development Economics class at Williams College in Massachusetts, U.S., and gained his AB Economics degree at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

Present during the ceremonies were officials headed by outgoing **Secretary Adrian S. Cristobal Jr.** and **Undersecretaries Victorio Mario A. Dimagiba (CPG), Ceferino S. Rodolfo (IDG), Nora K. Terrado (IPG), Zenaida Cuison-Maglaya (ROG), Prudencio M. Reyes Jr. (SCG),** and **Assistant Secretary and Officer-in-Charge Ireneo V. Vizmonte (MSG).**

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 [publications@dti.gov.ph](mailto:publications@dti.gov.ph).

No. 16 • July 5, 2016

Right after the turnover ceremony, Lopez attended his first official function by gracing the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Week at the Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC).

On 4 July, Secretary Lopez met the DTI Family during his first flag ceremony as DTI Secretary. In his first speech in front of DTI officers and employees most of whom were excited to meet and listen to him for the first time, Lopez admired the culture of excellence and integrity that, according to him, distinctively marks the character of DTI as a government agency.

*“Sana po makasama ko kayo sa mga programa natin tungo sa isang maunlad na Pilipinas, isang Pilipinas na merong mga progressive na kompanya na mag-e-employ sa mga taong magkakaroon ng quality jobs at income, na siyang mag-aangat sa buhay ng mga Pilipino,”* he said.

In his speech, he emphasized some points to usher in the new administration’s agenda for change:

- Developing competitive, value-adding industries
- Linking small enterprises with big businesses
- Fighting corruption
- Simplifying processes – get the cooperation of other institutions
- Promoting trade
- Honoring trade agreements
- Encouraging domestic and foreign investments
- Promoting consumer welfare

To top it all, he urged DTI officers and employees to have “the change from within.”

*“I invite everyone to have a change from within. Sa atin magmumula ang pagbabago. So ang assignments natin, tingnan natin kung anong changes o improvement ang dapat nating gawin para talaga mapaganda ang serbisyo natin,”* he said.



*The DTI Family formally welcomed Secretary Ramon M. Lopez during the turnover ceremony on 1 July and during his first flag ceremony at the DTI Head Office on 4 July.*