



2023 POST SONA DISCUSSIONS

PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC BRIEFING

14 AUGUST 2023 | LAOAG

POST-SONA PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC BRIEFING - LAOAG

*Agenda for Prosperity: Economic Transformation
toward Inclusivity and Sustainability*

Sierra Madre Ballroom, Fort Ilocandia
August 14, 2023

TIME	ACTIVITY
7:00 AM	Registration
8:00 AM	Program Briefing for Speakers/Panelists
9:00 AM	Opening Remarks ELI M. REMOLONA, JR., PhD <i>Governor</i> Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
9:10 AM	Keynote Message BENJAMIN E. DIOKNO, PhD <i>Secretary</i> Department of Finance
<p>Panel Discussion 1: A Fast-Growing and Forward-Looking Economy</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,</p>	

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.

9:20 AM

BENJAMIN E. DIOKNO, PhD

Secretary
Department of Finance

ELI M. REMOLONA, JR., PhD

Governor
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

AMENAH F. PANGANDAMAN

Secretary
Department of Budget and Management

CARLOS BERNARDO O. ABAD SANTOS

Undersecretary
National Economic and Development Authority

ATTY. CHERRIE GRACE P. BARENG-ASISTIN

President
Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry - Ilocos Norte

Moderator:

MARGAUX MARIE V. SALCEDO

Undersecretary
Department of Budget and Management

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.

10:10 AM

MANUEL M. BONOAN

Secretary
Department of Public Works and Highways

JAIME J. BAUTISTA

Secretary
Department of Transportation

IVAN JOHN E. UY

Secretary
Department of Information and Communications Technology

	<p>ROWENA CRISTINA L. GUEVARA, PhD <i>Undersecretary</i> Department of Energy</p> <p>MA. CYNTHIA C. HERNANDEZ <i>Executive Director</i> Public-Private Partnership Center</p> <p>JUAN MARTIN L. SYQUIA Executive Director, Corporate Finance ACEN Corporation</p> <p>Moderator: ATTY. MARIA LUWALHATI C. DOROTAN TIUSECO <i>Undersecretary</i> Department of Finance</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Panel Discussion 3: Reinvigorate. Accelerate. Transform.</p> <p>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.</p>	
11:00 AM	<p>BIENVENIDO E. LAGUESMA <i>Secretary</i> Department of Labor and Employment</p> <p>ALFREDO E. PASCUAL <i>Secretary</i> Department of Trade and Industry</p> <p>MAE ELAINE T. BATHAN <i>Undersecretary</i> Department of Tourism</p> <p>MERCEDITA A. SOMBILLA, PhD <i>Undersecretary</i> Department of Agriculture</p> <p>MARLO L. IRINGAN <i>Undersecretary</i> Department of the Interior and Local Government</p> <p>DIVINA C. QUEMI</p>

	<p><i>Chief Executive Officer, Nueva Segovia Consortium of Cooperatives</i> <i>Co-Chairperson, Economic Development Sector Committee, Regional Development Council I</i></p> <p>Moderator: MARGAUX MARIE V. SALCEDO <i>Undersecretary</i> Department of Budget and Management</p>
11:50 AM	<p>Closing and Thank Yous</p> <p>MARGAUX MARIE V. SALCEDO <i>Undersecretary</i> Department of Budget and Management</p> <p>ATTY. MARIA LUWALHATI C. DOROTAN TIUSECO <i>Undersecretary</i> Department of Finance</p>
11:55 AM	<p>Photo Opportunity All Speakers and Panelists</p> <p>Lunch</p>
12:45 PM – 1:30 PM	<p>Press Conference for Government Panelists</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.

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.

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.

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.

**ELI M. REMOLONA, JR., PhD**

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Dr. Eli Remolona is the seventh Governor of the BSP and Chairman of the Monetary Board, having been appointed in July 2023.

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.

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.

Before his appointment to the Monetary Board in 2022, Governor Remolona served as Independent Director of the Bank of Philippine Islands and Chairman of its risk management committee.

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.

**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.



CARLOS BERNARDO O. ABAD SANTOS

National Economic and Development Authority

Carlos Bernardo O. Abad Santos presently serves as the Undersecretary of the Regional Development Group at the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) of the Philippines. In his current capacity, he exercises supervisory authority over the Regional Development Staff and the 15 Regional Offices of NEDA. His role within the Regional Development Group extends to overseeing critical sectors such as Peace, Security, Public Order, as well as Disaster Risk Reduction and Management. Prior to his current position, Mr. Abad Santos served as the Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning at NEDA. Before joining NEDA in April 2014, Usec. Abad Santos accumulated 25 years of experience in the field of rural development, having worked extensively in both the public and private sectors. From 2005 to 2013, he served as the Executive Director and Senior Research Fellow at the Asia-Pacific Policy Center (APPC), where he spearheaded or collaborated on studies related to poverty, agribusiness development, local governance, and agrarian reform. He also worked as an independent consultant for esteemed institutions including the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, the Southeast Asian Regional Centre for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture, and Save the Children Federation, Inc.

Mr. Abad Santos holds a Masters's degree in Economics from the University of the Philippines-School of Economics. Additionally, he obtained a Diploma in Economic Development Planning from the Instituto di Studi per lo Sviluppo Economico. Through his profound understanding of development issues and his steadfast leadership capabilities, Usec. Abad Santos continues to make noteworthy contributions toward fostering sustainable and inclusive growth in the Philippines.



ATTY. CHERRIE GRACE P. BARENG-ASISTIN

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry-Ilocos Norte

Atty. Bareng-Asistin is the President of the Ilocos Norte chapter of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce of Industry. She is also the current Vice President and Director of the Board of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Ilocos Norte Chapter and the Public Relations Officer of the Laoag City People's Council. She also has other affiliations in professional and non-government organizations in Ilocos Norte such as the MMSU – Federated Alumni Association, Inc (MMSU-FAAI), and Multi-Sectoral Governance Council (MSGC) of the Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital and Medical Center.

She is a Senior Partner at C.P. Bareng Law Office, wherein she is a practicing litigation lawyer and notary public retainer. She is also a counsel of private individuals and consultant to various businesses, LGUs and NGOs.

She also worked at the Department of Health (DOH) as Attorney IV and rendered technical assistance and legal advice for the Secretary of Health on matters, policies and programs of the DOH. Atty. Bareng-Asistin was also a Consultant at the Department of Agrarian Reform whereon she was part of the Declogging Team, Policy, Planning and Legal Affairs Office.

Atty. Bareng-Asistin was admitted in the Bar in 2000. She received her Bachelor of Laws from Arellano University School of Law. She also holds a bachelor of arts degree with a major in Political Science from the Ateneo de Manila University. Atty. Bareng-Asistin also holds a Certificate on Negotiations and Participatory Processes from the Harvard University School of Law.

Panel Discussion 2: Building Better and Smarter for the Future



JAIME J. BAUTISTA

Department of Transportation

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.

He has a strong financial management background, allowing him to steer PAL through its most turbulent times.

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.

He is more of a professional manager rather than a technocrat.

He dislikes to be 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.



MANUEL M. BONOAN

Department of Public Works and Highways

Secretary Manuel M. Bonoan is a licensed civil engineer, bringing to the table more than five decades of extensive experience in the public and private sectors combined.

He started his career in the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in 1966 while he was still a senior student in then Mapua Institute of Technology. From his humble beginnings as a civil engineering aide, he rose from the ranks and held the positions of Chief Civil Engineer, Project Manager, Assistant Secretary and Undersecretary.

From January 30, 2007 to July 3, 2007, he was appointed as officer-in-charge of the DPWH by then president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. After such stint, he served as Senior Undersecretary of the Department until his retirement on June 30, 2010.

For more than a decade, he also immersed himself in private practice after joining the roster of top executives in San Miguel Corporation. He served as consultant adviser for its Infrastructure Sector and as President or Chief Executive Officer of its three subsidiaries: Skyway Operations and Maintenance Corporations; Star Tollway Corporation; and Manila Toll Expressway Systems, Incorporated.

Rooted on his very impressive experience and with his uncommon dedication to engineering competence and professional integrity, he was drawn back into the public service by the President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to led the administration's infrastructure program and carry out the challenge to 'Build Better More' to enhance the living condition of the Filipino people.



IVAN JOHN E. UY

Department of Information and Communications Technology

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.

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.



ROWENA CRISTINA L. GUEVARA, Ph.D.

Department of Energy

Dr. Rowena Cristina L. Guevara is an Undersecretary of the Department of Energy (DOE), supervising the Renewable Energy Management Bureau (REMB) and Electric Power Industry Management Bureau (EPIMB). She is seconded from the University of the Philippines Diliman where she is Professor XII at the Electrical, Electronics, and Engineering Institute.

Prior to her appointment as DOE Undersecretary, Dr. Guevara served as President and CEO of the National Transmission Corporation (TransCo). She was also the Undersecretary for Research and Development at the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) from July 2016 to June 2022 where she served at the 1st Program Leader of the Science for Change Program (S4CP), a 2022 United Nations Public Service Awards winner. Dr. Guevara was the youngest and first female Dean of the UP College of Engineering and Executive Director of the UP National Engineering Center from 2004 to 2010.

She received her BSEE and MSEE degrees from the University of the Philippines Diliman and her PhD in Electrical Engineering: Systems from the University of Michigan. She has been a recipient of several awards in engineering, education, and government service, including the 2010 Metrobank Outstanding Teachers of the Philippines and the 2018 Gawad Career Executive Service Presidential Award.



MA. CYNTHIA C. HERNANDEZ

Public-Private Partnership Center

Cynthia's area of expertise is in corporate finance, transaction advisory and financial modeling and valuation. Prior to assuming her position at the PPP Center, she was a Principal at the Deal Advisory practice of KPMG in the Philippines. She was also the sector lead for Energy and Infrastructure, where she assisted corporate and multilateral clients.

Her technical background as a licensed engineer is a significant factor in her chosen career. In addition to her degree in Metallurgical Engineering from the University of the Philippines, she also acquired a Masters in Development Economics from the same institution.

In a career spanning 23 years, Cynthia has been involved in significant deals and transactions as an advisor. As the head of the lead Philippine government agency for PPPs, she hopes to help drive economic growth through the development of inclusive and sustainable infrastructure projects



JUAN MARTIN L. SYQUIA

AC Energy Corp. (ACEN)

Marty is the Executive Director for Corporate Finance at ACEN.

He has over 15 years of banking experience primarily in debt capital markets and structured financing, having worked at Barclays Capital, Deutsche Bank and Nomura. While based in

Hong Kong, he covered the Philippines and other regional markets.

Marty has an MBA from Carnegie Mellon University and graduated with a B.S. Management Engineering degree from the Ateneo de Manila University

Panel Discussion 3: Reinvigorate. Accelerate. Transform.



BIENVENIDO E. LAGUESMA

Department of Labor and Employment

Bienvenido Estudillo Laguesma is the current Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), committed to provide responsive support interventions for Filipino workers, especially those in rural and far-urban areas.

Secretary Laguesma has a long track record of protecting and promoting the welfare of Filipino workers, having previously served the labor department in various capacities for over 25 years. He started his public service career as a mediator-arbiter at the Bureau of Labor Relations – Department of Labor (now DOLE) in 1976 and rose from the ranks until he was appointed as labor secretary in 1998 under the Estrada administration.

He was a part of the Social Security Commission as Commissioner from 2011 to 2016, during the administration of the late President Benigno Aquino III.

Secretary “Benny,” as he is commonly called, obtained a Bachelor's degree in political science from the Lyceum of the Philippines University in 1971. He then attended the Ateneo de Manila University where he graduated with a law degree in 1975. He was a member of Session XIX of the Career Executive Development Program of the Development Academy of the Philippines in 1985.



ALFREDO E. PASCUAL

Department of Trade and Industry

Fred Pascual is the Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). At the time of his appointment to DTI in June 2022, he was the President of the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP).

Over the past four decades, Mr. Pascual has contributed to society serving at four esteemed national and international institutions, viz.: Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD) as President and CEO in 2018 and 2019; University of the Philippines (UP) System as President and Co-Chair from 2011 to 2017 and as Alumni Regent in 2009 and 2010; Asian Development Bank (ADB) for 19 years (1989-2008) in several positions including as Director for Private Sector Operations, Director for Project Finance, and Advisor for Public-Private Partnership; and Asian

Institute of Management (AIM) as a finance professor in the 1980s.

He was an independent director on the board of publicly listed companies (e.g., SM Investments, Megawide Construction, and Concepcion Industrial). His past board memberships included non-profits and other organizations, such as the Philippine Institute of Development Studies (PIDS), International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), ICD, Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA), FINEX Academy, UP Foundation, UP CIFAL Philippines, Philippine Council for Foreign Relations (PCFR), and US-Philippines Society (USPHS).

Mr. Pascual finished his MBA and BS in Chemistry (cum laude) at UP. He attended the EC-ASEAN Program on Strategic and Organizational Change at the Euro-Asia Centre, Campus INSEAD, France. His awards included Honorary Doctorates from UP and four other universities, Presidential Lingkod Bayan Award from Malacanang, Rotary Golden Wheel Award for Higher Education.



MAE ELAINE T. BATHAN

Department of Tourism

Atty. Mae Elaine Tantengco Bathan is a lady lawyer from Mandaue City, Cebu and a proud Cebuana. She is the Chief of Staff and Undersecretary for Legal and Special Concerns of the Philippine Department of Tourism.

Atty. Elaine has always seen working in the government as an honor, which is a perspective formed by her professional life that is profoundly defined by her years in legal practice and public service since she passed the bar in 2005.

Prior to her stint in the Tourism department, she served as a legal consultant for Talisay City, Municipality of Lilo-an, the 5th Congressional District of Cebu, and for the League of Municipalities Cebu Chapter and also as the General Legal Counsel of Ako Bisaya Partylist. She also stood as the Chief of Staff of the City Government of Mandaue from 2016 to 2019.

Atty. Elaine was a finalist for the Woman Lawyer and Young Lawyer of the Year of the Philippine Law Awards. In 2013, she became the President of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines- Cebu City Chapter. She then became the youngest and the first lady Governor of the IBP Eastern Visayas Region in 2015. Aside from public service, Atty. Elaine found her passion in teaching. She conducts Department of Interior and Local Government- sponsored trainings on Ethics, Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices

Act, Code of Conduct for Public Officials, and Legal Forms in government Transactions. As a recognized feminist, Gender Sensitivity and VAWC law are one of her expertise. She also conducts lessons on Cybercrime and Data Privacy Law.

Anyone in Cebu probably knows who Atty. Elaine is. As a natural problem solver, she hosts a pro-bono radio show called “Kini ang Akong Suliran” which gives free legal advice and service especially to the underprivileged. But aside from her duties in the government, she never forgets her first love—lawyering.

Today, she still stands as the Assistant Dean in the University of San Jose Recoletos School of Law for 17 years now. She is also a Resident Partner on leave for Divina Law.



MERCEDITA A. SOMBILLA, PhD

Department of Agriculture

Dr. Sombilla joined the Department of Agriculture as the Undersecretary (*i.e., deputy minister*) 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.

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.

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.

**MARLO L. IRINGAN**

Department of the Interior and Local Government

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 (BGOO), 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.

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.

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.

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.



DIVINA C. QUEMI

Nueva Segovia Consortium of Cooperatives

Ms. Divina Quemi is the Chief Executive Officer of Nueva Segovia Consortium of Cooperatives. The CEO holds the most important position in the Cooperative. The Archdiocese of Nueva Segovia has entrusted her the management of the Nueva Segovia Consortium of Cooperatives, hence the founding manager of the cooperative. She is given authority by the General Assembly to decide for the operation of the Cooperative. Being the CEO, she is also authorized by the Board of Directors to officially represent, transact business and become a signatory in all transactions with financial institutions, funding agencies and other partners or affiliations of the Cooperative. Nueva Segovia Consortium of Cooperatives is now nationwide in terms of area of operation. NSCC is affiliated with national and international cooperative organizations like Asian Confederation of Credit Unions, National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO), Philippine Cooperative Center, and Federation of People's Sustainable Development Cooperative. The cooperative is also an active conduit of different financial institutions like Small Business Corporation, Land Bank of the Philippines, Development Bank of the Philippines, Foundation for Sustainable Society, Inc. (FSSI) and others.

MODERATORS



MARGAUX MARIE V. SALCEDO

Department of Budget and Management

Margaux Salcedo is the Undersecretary for Communications and Stakeholder Engagement of the Department of Budget and Management. She heads the Functional Group for Advocacies, Communications, and Training Services or DBM-ACTS.

She was Communications Consultant for the Department of Budget and Management under the Duterte Administration; editor of Core, the economic analysis book series authored by Finance Sec. Benjamin Diokno; a media strategies and crisis management consultant for 10 years; spokesperson of former President Joseph Estrada; and former news anchor of GMA News Live.

She is also a food critic of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, with a column entitled First Class, published



on Sundays in the Business Section. She is also the founding editor-in-chief of the award-winning Catholic website DominusEst.PH.

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.

ATTY. MARIA LUWALHATI C. DOROTAN TIUSECO
Department of Finance

Alu is the Department of Finance's spokesperson and head of Climate Finance Policy Group, Information Management Service, and Political & Legislative Liaison Group.

Prior to joining the economic team, Alu served as chief legal counsel and policy head in the Office of Senate President Franklin M. Drilon and the Office of Senate President Juan Miguel F. Zubiri. She co-wrote and closely supervised the passage of landmark measures, including the Revised Corporation Code, Bangsamoro Organic Law, concurrence to the ratification of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement, and amendments to the Public Service Act and Retail Trade Liberalization Law, to name a few. She lent her expertise on various other measures and is well-regarded in the field of policymaking and legislation.

While Alu began her career as a corporate law associate at Picazo Buyco Tan Fider & Santos, one of the Philippines' leading firms specializing in corporate law and special projects, she has spent most of her career in government service. She also served as spokesperson of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and permanent representative to the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Presidential Cabinet Cluster, and convenor in a number of solid waste, urban renewal, traffic and international relations programs. Alu was likewise a member of the Boards of the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA), the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), and served as board secretary of the Metro Manila Council (MMC).

She is a professor of Political Law Review, Constitutional Law I, and Comparative Environmental Law at the Ateneo Law School.

Alu graduated from the Ateneo Law School and obtained her Master of Laws in Energy and Environment from Tulane Law School as a Harry F. Stiles awardee. She is a member of the Philippine and New York State Bar associations.