

ARSENIO M. BALISACAN

Secretary

Department of Economy, Planning, and Development

Arsenio M. Balisacan is the Secretary (Minister) of the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev), formerly the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), which he also led from 2012 to 2016. As DEPDev Secretary, he serves as the country's Chief Economist, overseeing national economic policy, planning, and monitoring, and advising the President and Cabinet members on economic and social development matters.

Before rejoining the Cabinet in 2022, he was the founding Chairperson of the Philippine Competition Commission (2016–2022), where he guided the establishment of a modern competition enforcement regime to promote fair market competition, protect consumer welfare, and advance economic development.

He has taught at the University of the Philippines (UP) for over three decades, serving as Professor and Dean of the UP School of Economics prior to his 2012 appointment as Socioeconomic Planning Secretary and NEDA Director-General. He was also seconded to lead the Southeast Asian Regional Centre for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) and serve as Undersecretary of the Department of Agriculture.

Earlier in his career, he was a research fellow at the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, and an economist at the World Bank in Washington, DC.

Outside of government, he has served as a consultant and advisor to major development agencies and multilateral institutions, including the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, OECD, ASEAN, and several United Nations agencies.

He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Hawaii, an MS in Agricultural Economics from the University of the Philippines Los Baños, and a BS in Agriculture (magna cum laude) from the Mariano Marcos State University.