



*Regina "Gina" Paz L. Lopez*

Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Regina Paz Lopez is currently the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. She was the Chairperson of the ABS-CBN Lingkod Kapamilya Foundation Inc., the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, and is the Vice Chairperson of Bayan Academy.

She is known to be a strong advocate of children and education, the environment and its protection, as well as health and wellness.

As an advocate of children, she spearheaded the country's first media-based hotline, Bantay Bata 163. Bantay Bata 163 is a child welfare program that protects disadvantaged and at-risk children. In 1997, Bantay Bata was awarded the United Nations Grand Awardee for Excellence besting 187 countries from all over the world.

For education, she produced an educational television show on science, math, values, history, and English for elementary students. The success of Sineskwela was recognized by honoring Ms. Lopez with the Unesco Kalinga Award – the first Southeast Asian to earn such a distinction.

Ms. Lopez is also at the forefront of environmental protection and conservation.

In her fight to protect the environment, she launched a 10 million signature campaign to say in one loud voice that key biodiversity areas must be protected and not be ravaged by mining.

Since then, Bantay Kalikasan's thrust has been environmental education through the promotion of ecotourism. Her goal is to be able to imprint in the hearts and minds of Filipinos the mandate of taking care of the environment which in turn will lead to sustainable and inclusive growth. The foundation is currently present in 13 provinces, 33 municipalities, and has helped over 140 people's organizations across the country.

She went to Assumption College and Newton College of the Sacred Heart in Boston. She has a Master's Degree in Development Management from the Asian Institute of Management and a Doctorate Degree in Humanities, Honoris Causa from the Ateneo de Naga University and another Doctorate Degree in Humane Letters, Honoris Causa from the Palawan State University. She has two sons.