



Secretary Karl Kendrick T. Chua

was appointed Acting Secretary of NEDA on April 17, 2020.

Prior to his appointment, he was Undersecretary for the Strategy, Economics, and Results Group in the Department of Finance (DOF). In this capacity, he helped the government implement its ten-point socioeconomic agenda by ensuring equitable and sustainable financing through the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program.

During his tenure, the DOF worked with Congress to pass the Tax Reform for

Inclusion and Acceleration (TRAIN) Law, which corrected the longstanding inequity of the tax system by reducing income taxes for 99 percent of income taxpayers and continues to provide funding for the government's Build, Build, Build infrastructure program. Then-Undersecretary Chua was critical in the passage of three pieces of legislation increasing excise taxes on "sin" products, such as tobacco, liquor, and e-cigarettes, to fund the Universal Health Care Program.

Prior to joining the government, he was the World Bank's senior country economist for the Philippines. In this capacity, he advised the government on strategies and policies to attain more inclusive growth—the type that creates more and better jobs and reduces poverty.

His work as the senior country economist also had him spend one-and-a-half years in Mindanao, where he led a team to conduct in-depth consultations for the 2017 Mindanao Jobs Report, a comprehensive strategy for the island group's development. The study's inclusive approach integrated the insights of government, business, labor, civil society, and vulnerable groups who are often left out in the engagement process, such as indigenous people, Moro women, out-of-school youth, combatants, and internally displaced people.

He was with the World Bank for 12 years from 2004 to 2016.

Acting Secretary Chua completed his MA in economics in 2003 and PhD in economics in 2011 at the University of the Philippines School of Economics.

Prior to joining the World Bank, he was assistant professorial lecturer of mathematics and economics at the Ateneo de Manila University, where he also completed his BS in Management Engineering in 2000. He was consultant for several local and development partner-funded projects in the area of economic and fiscal policy. Acting Secretary Chua was also named one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men in January 2019 by the Junior Chamber International (JCI) Philippines.