

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

### **Maria Catalina E. Cabral, Ph.D.**

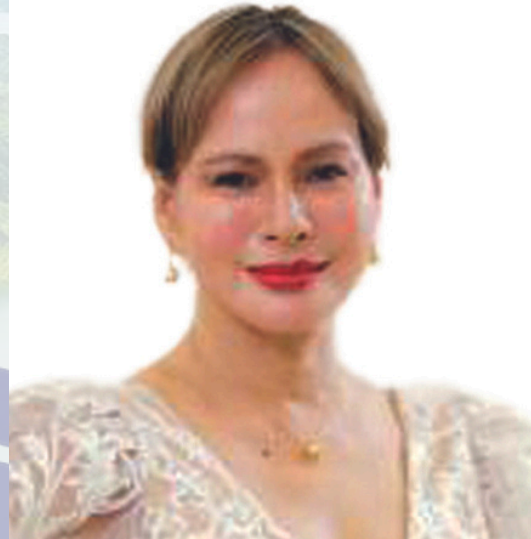
*Undersecretary, Planning and PPP  
Alternate Member, NIA Board of Directors*

*Birthday: May 23, 1962 (62 yrs. old)*

*Date of Appointment: November 04, 2014*

*Date of Assumption: November 10, 2024*

*Date of Designation: August 01, 2022*



If there is a model for “Women in Infrastructure” in an organization dominated by male officials, it is Undersecretary Maria Catalina E. Cabral, who made history as the first female rank-and-file employee to reach the level of Undersecretary at the Department of Public Works and Highways – the government’s engineering and construction arm.

As the Undersecretary for Planning and Public-Private Partnership (PPP), Undersecretary Cabral oversees the DPWH’s infrastructure planning and programming, as well as the PPP projects that the department implements.

Undersecretary Cabral is a licensed civil engineer with two doctorate degrees in Business Management and Public Administration and is a Ph.D. candidate in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of the Philippines. She also holds three master’s degrees and certificates from Wharton, Harvard Kennedy School, and Mohamed Bin Zayed University in areas like data analytics, digital transformation, and AI.

She made history as the first female President of the Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers (PICE) and later served as National President of the Road Engineering Association of the Philippines. In 2021, she held the Professional Chair in Engineering Science and Technology at PUP.

Her excellence has earned her numerous awards, including the 2021 PEZA Galing Pinas Ecozone Partnership Award, the 2020 Excellence Award from the Philippine Federations of Professional Associations, and the 2021 PRC Outstanding Professional of the Year in Civil Engineering.



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Additionally, the JCI Senate Philippines named her one of the Five Outstanding Filipino (TOFIL) Awardees Laureates for Government and Public Service in 2022. She has also received the Manila Times Global Excellence Award in 2023, the 2023 Brand Asia Award as Top Leader of Excellence in Humanitarian and Public Service, the 2023 Philippine Resilience Awards for Women and the 2024 Circle of Excellence Awardee ASIA-CEO Woman of the Year.

Beyond local recognition, she has been nominated for several international awards, including the World Federation of Engineering Organization's GREE Women in Engineering Award in 2019, the United Nations Public Service Awards for SDG 5 – Gender and Equality in 2022, the Asian Civil Engineering Coordinating Council (ACECC) Achievement Award in 2022. She has also recently been nominated for the 2024 Women's International Network on Disaster Risk Reduction (WIN-DRR) and the Presidential GAWAD CES Award.

Undersecretary Cabral is also a commissioned officer in the Reserve Force of the Armed Forces of the Philippines with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Philippine Army.

### Trainings Attended:

- Technical and Business Cooperation on the Road Construction and Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Road Tunnel and Related Facilities. Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), Japan. December 6, 2024.
- Sustainable Development Futures: From Knowledge to Practice. School of Urban and Regional Planning (UP-SURP). November 12-13, 2024.
- Executive Program-Accelerated, Artificial Intelligence (AI). Mohamed Bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Abu Dhabi, UAE. October 20-25, 2024.
- Best Practices of Effective Boards. Center for Global Best Practices. September 3, 2024.
- Build Once, Deploy Anywhere: The Future of Whole-of-Government Analytics. GovInsider/RedHat. June 13, 2024.
- Filipina Changemakers “Champions for Climate Resilience” Forum. Climate Change Commission/Office of the Senate President Loren Legarda. April 29, 2024.
- Women and Power: Digital Transformation in Government Public Policy and Service. Harvard Kenney School for Executives Education, Boston, USA. April 7-12, 2024.