



To a Well-informed Public, Transparent Government, and Strong Democracy



MALACAÑAN PALACE MANILA

My warmest greetings to the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) as it marks the second year of the implementation of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Program in the Executive Branch.

The FOI is an integral element of this administration's Good Governance Plan aligned to reforms and initiatives that promote greater transparency, accountability, and citizen participation. Through this policy and mechanism, we uphold our people's constitutional right to have access to relevant information pertaining to non-sensitive government transactions and operations.

I am pleased to know that in the two years of its implementation, your agency has processed close to 8,000 FOI requests, included over 305 government agencies in the FOI online portal, and continue to enjoin other government agencies to produce FOI reports as an important indicator of their performance efficiency.

May you remain steadfast in your commitment to uphold the integrity of our government offices by advocating for an informed citizenry. I assure you to my full support in your work as we pave the way for a stronger and more progressive nation.

I wish you a successful and meaningful event.

MANILA 28 November 2018

RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

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MESSAGE

Two years of implementing the Freedom of Information Program has brought more government transparency, as this Administration's promise of accountable and responsive government is being delivered to our people.

The job of ensuring the success of the implementation of the Freedom of Information in the Philippines has never been easy. But through the remarkable support of our partners, FOI implementors and stakeholders -- the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO), as the lead agency in the implementation of the FOI Program, has been able to equip the citizenry with knowledge necessary to protect the people's Constitutional Right to Information.

Agencies throughout the Executive Branch have shown notable contributions to the development, progress, and pursuit of empowering public service with proactive disclosure. Significant accomplishments of these agencies are being recognized to encourage more FOI implementors to bring out their best practices in providing public convenience in exercising their right to information.

Through the commendable engaging strategies of the Freedom of Information - Project Management Office (FOI-PMO), we now have 305 government offices taking part in the development of the FOI Program. Their initiatives have also brought us strong partnerships with civil society organizations, commissions, offices, local government units, and agencies outside the Executive Branch.

Our President has long been hoping that both the legislative and judicial branches of government join us in strengthening our democratic institutions by following suit. With this, the PCOO has been continuously reaching out to government entities outside the Executive Branch to facilitate implementation of the FOI Program within their respective jurisdiction. Through the unceasing enthusiasm of public servants towards transparency and accountability, the PCOO envisions that this endeavour will result to the FOI being operationalized throughout the whole of government.

JOSE RUPERTO MARTIN M. ANDANAR Secretary, PCOO

MESSAGE

Greetings!

Trust is very important, especially between us public servants and the Filipino people. This is actually enshrined in Article XI, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution.

Given this, it is necessary to foster and maintain civic engagement from the local level to the national level. With transparency and openness, we in the government will be held accountable for our service to the Filipino people.

Since the President signed Executive Order No. 2 in July 2016, which directs all agencies in the Executive Branch to uphold the people's constitutional right to information and for full disclosure in public service, we have made significant advances in promoting and institutionalizing transparency and accountability in government.

Through the FOI portal, the Department of Budget and Management has received a significant number of requests. It inspires us knowing that the Filipino people are concerned about where their taxes are allocated to and how much have been spent; it also reminds us of our responsibility to the country with the hard-earned money that the people have entrusted to us.

In addition to enacting fundamental public financial management reforms, such as the Budget and Treasury Management System and annual cash-based budgeting, we were able to make headway with Open Government and Participatory Governance Regional Dialogues that gathered local

governments and non-government organizations in 78 out of 81 provinces in the country achieving encouraging results.

In order to get civil society organizations more involved in the local planning and development to further improve the delivery of basic services, they will soon be able to submit proposals for the crafting of commitments of the next Open Government Partnership National Action Plan.

This is revolutionary given that in past action plans, government agencies would be called to make commitments then subject these commitments to consultation with civil society. Now civil society will no longer be limited to consultations; it will initiate the preparation of the action plan.

I am confident that this Annual Report will inform you in detail of our efforts at promoting transparency, accountability, and public participation in government processes and other programs that we will pursue well into the future. We will maintain and build on this level of civic engagement together with our commitment to serve the Filipino people.

Thank you.

BENJAMIN E. DIOKNO, Ph.D.
Secretary, DBM



MESSAGE

We acknowledge and laud the efforts of the FOI Philippines Office, headed by Assistant Secretary Kristian Ablan, to improve the capacity of the bureaucracy to respond to the demands of transparency. A dedicated office facilitates the fulfillment of the difficult task of mainstreaming FOI and aligning government processes to its mandate.

Much remains to be done two years after Executive Order No. 2 and the full roll-out of the FOI Program in the Executive Branch. Many of these require time, political will and full understanding of the democratic principles of accountability, transparency and people empowerment, and culture change, and we hope that there will be no letup in the pursuit of transparency in government.

While EO No. 2 answers the procedural aspects in FOI, it lacks the teeth that will provide even greater disincentive to secrecy and lack of openness. A law is imperative to further institutionalize FOI, and to create the appropriate infrastructure for it

For the *Right to Know. Right Now! Coalition*, the Co-Conveners:

Evene forme l'agente

Atty. Eirene Jhone Aguila

Aksyong Kabayanihan Para sa Organisadong Pagbabago (ANGKOP)

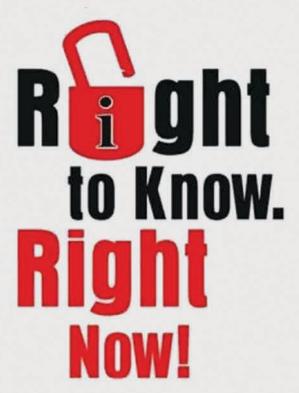
Malon Mangelas

Ms. Malou Mangahas

Philippine Center for Investigatibve Journalism (PCIJ)

Ms. Jenina Joy Chavez

Action for Economic Reforms (AER)



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rising from its humble beginnings, the Freedom of Information-Project Management Office (FOI-PMO) is proud to share its journey in pushing for transparency and accountability through its 2018 FOI Annual Report. Within two years of implementation, our strategies have transitioned from encouraging stakeholders to get onboard to striving for deeper and more meaningful engagements with our partners for change.

This document features our efforts in regaining public trust and promoting an informed citizenry through: strategic and inclusive policy development processes and issuances; more intensive capacity development activities and expanded reach for information, education, and communication campaigns; enhanced maintenance of the electronic FOI portal; formulated monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for agency performance; and, established and strengthened strategic partnerships.

Making information disclosure the norm requires major behavioral change across government. To promote this, our office developed policies encouraging compliance to the FOI Program through the inclusion of enhanced FOI requirements as criteria for the eligibility for the grant FY 2018 Performance-Based Bonus. Out of the total 939 government agencies, the following agencies have complied to the set requirements: 457 (49%) submitted signed FOI Manuals; 320 (34%) submitted Agency Information Inventories; 306 (33%) submitted FOI Summary Reports; 309 (33%) submitted FOI Registries; 458 (49%) posted FOI logos in their respective websites.

Numerous consultation workshops and meetings were also conducted together with stakeholders to collaborate on the strategic policy directions for FOI implementation. These consultations resulted to a joint appeals letter for the immediate passage of the FOI Bill addressed to the House Committee on Appropriations and a co-developed proposal for the establishment of an FOI Advisory Committee which provides a seat for civil society organizations. Moreover, an FOI Exceptions Policy Committee was established and approved by the Office of the Executive Secretary tasked to review the current list of exceptions for access to information.

Another milestone for the FOI-PMO is the issuance of a Joint Memorandum Circular by the PCOO and the Department of the Interior and Local Government which encourages local government units (LGUs) to issue local FOI ordinances. This is envisioned to capacitate LGUs in the preparation for the passage of the FOI Bill. As of date, nine (9) LGUs have successfully passed their ordinances: Pasig City, Manila; Laoag City, Ilocos Norte; Municipality of San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte; Municipality of Pakil, Laguna; Province of Benguet; Province of Bohol; Province of Ilocos Norte; Province of Masbate; and, Province of Surigao Del Norte.

Moreover, our office firmly believes that increasing the demand for government information is also a major part of the narrative of good governance through access to information. To further widen the reach of the program, a total of 268 information, education, and communication activities have been organized and participated in by the FOI-PMO which included media engagements, major events, orientation sessions, technical workshops, collaborative meetings, consultations and fora, and international events.

Notable events include the Philippine-Open Government Partnership (Ph-OGP) Regional Dialogues, 2018 Open Data Day Ph, First FOI Receiving Officers' Hangout, 2018 Ph-OGP Week, The Future Value of Data, Local Government Dialogues on Open Contracting, the 5th International Open Data Conference in Argentina, and the OGP Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting in South Korea.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To encourage meaningful discourse for promoting use of truthful information and factual data, our office has developed innovations in reaching out to academic institutions. We recently launched our FOI Campus Caravans starting with Kapitolyo High School, Montessori de San Juan, and Antonio A. Maceda Integrated School which aim to promote FOI as a tool for research for students and academic professionals.

We also heightened our presence on our social media platforms with 49,557 Facebook likers, 225 Instagram followers, 467 Twitter followers. Simultaneously, we remained focused on traditional media through continuous reproduction of our printed publications, consistent airing of FOI videos in train stations, and frequent guestings on radio stations.

In terms of our online portal which started out with fifteen (15) government agencies onboard in 2016, the platform now has 305 government offices consisting of 186 national government agencies, 90 government-owned and/or -controlled corporations, 19 state universities and colleges, and 10 local water districts.

It should also be noted that back in 2017, we highlighted compliance through timely submissions. This year, our office focused on quantifying agency performance through our established monitoring and evaluation framework which included success indicators and performance metrics. This framework guided us in the selection of the 2018 FOI Awardees and Champions.

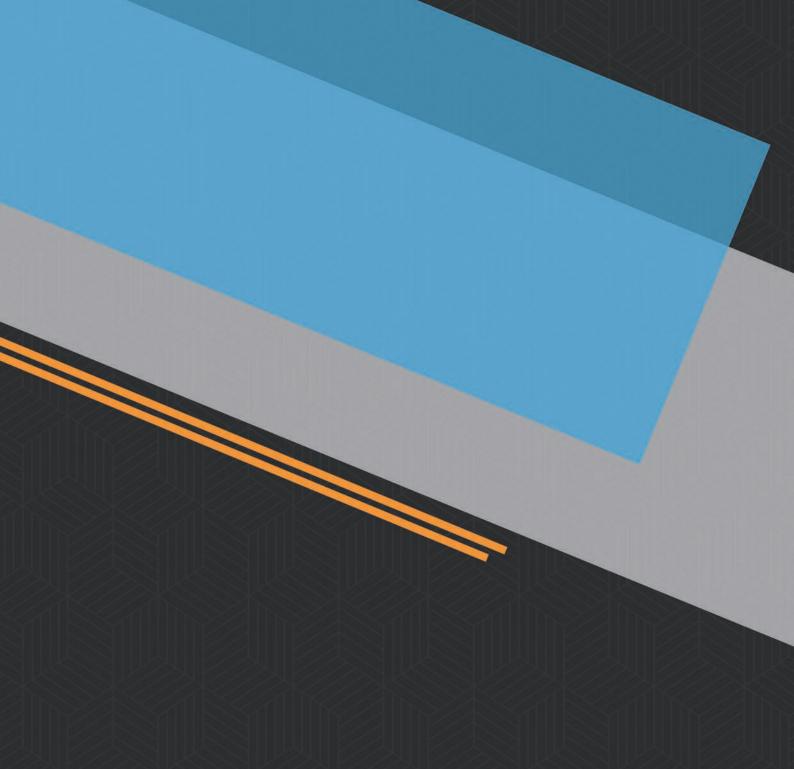
Lastly, one of the major strengths we consider in our program implementation are the established and strengthened partnerships we built over the years. From simply ensuring that agencies respond to citizen requests, our office overcame barriers and built bridges for collaboration to start the conversations on bigger issues such as data privacy, open and participatory governance, open contracting, promoting civic technology and innovations, harmonizing digital records management across government, and even participating in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

This report comprehensively summarizes all our achievements and we would like to offer these humble milestones to all our partners for change. All the credit goes to the government agencies, civil society organizations, the media, academe, and the development partners who heeded the call and joined our journey in pushing for transparency and accountability.

For 2019, we commit to take stock of the lessons learned, continue best practices, take on new challenges, and promote greater collaboration among stakeholders in performing our duties as public servants.

Once again, we call for your support in the year ahead. Together, we can commit to deliver transparency to Filipinos by serving as vehicles for empowering a well-informed and enlightened citizenry.

ATTY. KRISTIAN R. ABLAN Assistant Secretary, PCOO



DELIVERING TRANSPARENCY THROUGH:

A. Agency Performance

Access to government information is now within easy reach as FOI requests may now be lodged either through the Standard (Paper-Based) Platform or the eFOI Portal. While all government entities covered by the EO are mandated to implement the standard request format, they are also encouraged to enroll in the Program's eFOI Portal in order to facilitate online requests for information and ensure Filipino citizens' ease of access to government records.

Through the eFOI Portal, government offices are able to receive, process, and respond to requests efficiently. Citizens are likewise able to easily track the status of their request and receive their requested information online.

1. Registered eFOI Portal Users -

A total of 4,157 are registered eFOI Portal users from the academe, civil society organizations (CSOs), media, local government, and national government. An average of two (2) requests were lodged per user.

In summary, 62% of users are from the academe and 19% from national government offices. The remaining **19%** are from CSOs, media, and local government.

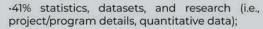
Further, it was reported that 62% of users registered in 2018 due to the conduct of the FOI Campus Caravan across schools in Metro Manila.

Table 1. Classification of Users Per Affiliation:					
	USERS	2016	2017	2018	SUBTOTAL
Academe (Researchers & Students)		73	732	1,777	2,582 (62%)
CSOs		160	134	44	338 (8%)
National Government		37	275	468	780 (19%)
Media		21	90	99	210 (5%)
Local Government		17	70	160	247 (6%)
	TOTAL	308 (7%)	1,301 (31%)	2,548 (62%)	4,157

2. Most Requested Government Information

Based on the data gathered from the eFOI, the most requested information are the following:

 45% legal documents/resources (i.e., memo circulars, board resolutions, orders, contracts);



·7% personal information (i.e., Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth; Personal Data Sheets; monthly salary of government officials; travel expenses); and

·7% are invalid or not counted as an FOI request (i.e., inquiries, complaints).



45%
Legal Documents/
Resources



7% Personal Information



41% Statistics, Datasets, and Research



Invalid or not counted as an FOI request

3. Purpose of Making Requests

Requests for information can further be categorized based on the requesting parties' purposes:



53%



27% School Thesis

and/or Reports



10%

Personal Consumption



10% Other

4. eFOI Portal Onboarding

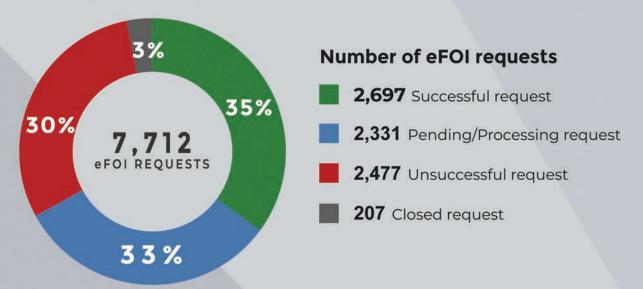
From the initial fourteen (14) government offices onboard in December 2016, the eFOI Portal (as of 30 September 2018) has 305 government offices onboard with over 7,712 eFOI requests lodged. The agencies consist of 186 National Government Agencies (NGAs), 90 Government-Owned and/or -Controlled Corporations (GOCCs), 19 State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), and 10 Local Water Districts (LWD)s. Of the participating GOCCs, it should be noted that the Southern Utility Management, Inc. and Quedan & Rural Credit Guarantee Corporation are under privatization and abolition, respectively. Of the participating SUCs, eight (8) are constituent universities of the University of the Philippines System.

Table 3. Registered Agency Users Based on Roles



5. eFOI Request Facilitation

The eFOI Portal categorizes lodged requests based on status: pending/processing, successful, unsuccessful, and closed.



"Successful Requests" are requests in which agencies fully-provided the information as requested by the requesting party.

"Pending Requests" are requests currently being acted upon by the agencies.

"Unsuccessful Requests" are requests which may either be invalid, lodged to the wrong agency, or denied due to the application of the exceptions to FOI.

"Closed Requests" are requests which required clarifications from the agencies and which were not responded to by the requesting parties within 60 calendar days.

Government Agencies with the Highest Number of eFOI Requests



Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) 1,026 (13%)



Department of Health (DOH)

552 (7%)



Department of Transportation (DOTr)

458 (6%)



Department of Budget and Management (DBM)

256 (3%)



Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) 203 (3%)



Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)

190 (2%)



Department of Education (DepEd)

171 (2%)

Total: 2,856 (37%)

Data on agencies where information is most requested are gathered real-time. This is a unique feature of the eFOI Portal. The chart shows the top seven (7) government agencies with the most number of requests received from citizens.

B. Agency Compliance

Pursuant to FOI-MC 2018-01, government offices are required to submit annually their respective FOI Information Inventories and quarterly FOI Registries and Summaries.

While requests through the eFOI portal are regularly monitored by the FOI-PMO, the number and status of requests lodged through the Standard (Paper-based) Platform depend on the submission by government agencies.

PBB FY 2018 Validation

Through the initiative of the DBM and PCOO, FOI Program requirements have been included as a criteria for the eligibility of the grant Performance-Based Bonus (PBB) under the FY2018 Performance Targets: Other Cross-Cutting Requirements category. To support agencies, the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Harmonization of National Government Performance Monitoring, Information, and Reporting Systems issued Memorandum Circular 2018-01 which included the online publication of the following first set of requirements on the respective Transparency Seal pages of agencies on or before 30 September 2018:

- 1. Final People's FOI Manual signed by the head of agency;
- 2. The Agency Information Inventory;
- The 2017 FOI Summary Report;
- 4. The 2017 FOI Registry; and
- 5. A visible and hyperlinked FOI logo in the agency's home page.

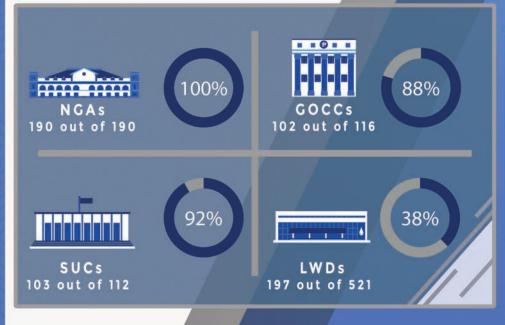
Additionally, the last set of requirements include the 2018 FOI Registries and Summary Reports, which should be posted on or before 31 January 2019 pursuant to FOI Memorandum Circular No. 2, s. 2018.

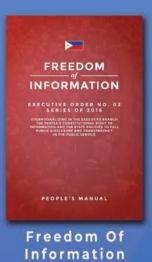
1. FOI Manuals

The EO mandates all government entities across the Executive Branch to publish their respective People's FOI Manual -- a document that outlines the standard processes in providing citizens access to government information. It is designed to provide guidelines for the general public in making FOI requests.

As required by the EO, the manual should contain information on 1) the location and contact information of the government agency implementing the FOI Program, 2) names of persons responsible for facilitating requests for information, 3) procedures for filing and processing of requests, 4) standard forms for submission of requests, 5) process for disposition of requests, 6) procedures for administrative appeals on denial of requests, and 7) schedule of applicable fees. It should also be proactively disclosed through the agency's website, at no cost to the public and in an accessible format.

Our office has been actively evaluating and monitoring the compliance of all government agencies across the Executive Branch to the directives of the EO. To date, the following have established compliance through the submission of their FOI Manuals:





Manual

Our office conducted a thorough review of the submitted People's FOI Manuals to ensure agency compliance to the provisions of the EO. The charts below show our observations as of 30 September 2018, in terms of the completeness of information in the manuals:



submitted manuals with complete details of the FOI Receiving Office of the Agency and its local offices (i.e., location of FOI Receiving Office; contact details of the head, regional, provincial, and field offices) and other established places where the public can obtain information or submit requests



submitted manuals with designated FOI Receiving Officer/s who are responsible for receiving requests for infortmation; **3,945** FOI Receiving Officers were identified in the uploaded FOI manuals



established their respective FOI Appeals and Review Committees



cited that the requesting party may appeal the denial to the next higher in rank



complied with all of the provisions of the EO.



developed their own FOI Request Forms



adopted the standard FOI Request Form prescribed by the PCOO



FOI Request Form



2. FOI Reports

a. Information Inventory

The Agency Information Inventory is a master list of all government information held by an agency, including the title, description, and file type of each information. It provides the scope and limitations of the information which can or cannot be requested from an agency.

Information in the inventory are classified according to the following disclosure categories:

- for public consumption;
- for agency consumption only;
- under the exceptions to EO 2, s. 2016;
- with corresponding charges; and
- available only to specific person/s and/or entity/ies.

In summary, a total of 320 (or 34%) government agencies submitted their Agency Information Inventories.

Agency Information Inventory Submissions



The following are samples of information that may be retrieved by citizens based on the Agency Information Inventories submitted by the agencies:

- Permit to Cut Trees from the Authority of the Freeport Area of Bataan
- National Climate Budgeting and Bid Supplement from the DBM
- General Government Debt from the Department of Finance
- Statement of Tax Remittance Advice from the Department of National Defense Central Office
- Statistics on Insurance Brokers from the Insurance Commission
- Statement of Cash Flow and Subsidies from the National Government from the National Housing Authority
- Tulong Pangkabuhayan sa Ating Disadvantaged Workers Program (TUPAD) Information from the Department of Labor and Employment Financial and Management Service
- Registered workers aged 18 to 60 years old in Cavite from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Cavite Provincial Office

Summary of Submissions

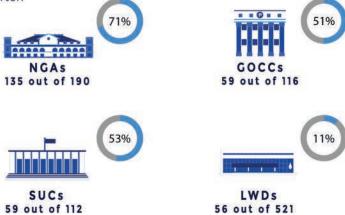
This chart shows the number of agencies who have submitted their Agency Information Inventories at least once a year. Including LWDs, a total of 320 out of 939 (34%) agencies submitted and uploaded their inventories in their respective Transparency Seal pages.

SIGNED FOI MANUAL IN TRANSPARENCY SEAL PAGE 172 (90.53%)	NUMBER OF OFFICES 190
90 (80.17%)	116
100 (89.29%)	112
365 (87.32%)	418
92 (17.66%)	521
457 (48.67%)	939
	TRANSPARENCY SEAL PAGE 172 (90.53%) 90 (80.17%) 100 (89.29%) 365 (87.32%) 92 (17.66%)

b. Registry and Summary

The FOI Registry is a log of all information requests coursed through both the standard and electronic platforms, and received by the agency for the specific quarter covered by the submission. It contains the details of each FOI request, including the title of the document and the processing time and status.

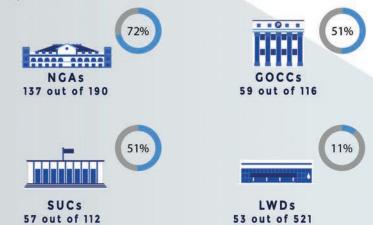
Of the total number of agencies per classification, the following have submitted their FOI Registries at least once a quarter:



From the **309 government offices** who have submitted their FOI Registries, a total of **3,737** standard paper-based requests were reported.

The FOI Summary is a table containing the total number of requests received by an agency according to status, also for the specific quarter covered by the submission.

Of the total number of agencies per classification, the following have submitted their FOI Summary Reports:

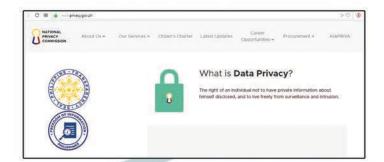


Summary of Submissions

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	FOI Summary	FOI Registry	Number of Offices
MILE IIIII NGAs	137 (72.11%)	135 (71.05%)	190
GOCCS	59 (50.86%)	59 (50.86%)	116
SUCS	57 (50.89%)	59 (52.62%)	112
Subtotal	253 (60.63%)	253 (60.53%)	418
LWDs	53 (10.17%)	56 (10.75%)	521
Total	306 (32.59%)	309 (32.91%)	939



3. FOI Logo in Homepage







Summary of Submissions

	(
	FOI Logo	Number of Offices
NGAS	172 (90.53%)	190
GOCCS	72 (62.07%)	116
sucs	94 (83.93.%)	112
Subtotal	338 (80.86%)	418
LWDs	120 (23.03%)	521
Total	458 (34.08%)	939

OTHER OFFICES SUPPORTING FOI

This year, we have doubled our efforts in encouraging government entities outside the Executive Branch to observe and be guided by the provisions of the EO. These efforts have resulted to the following government offices and LGUs implementing the FOI Program within their jurisdiction:

























A. Strengthening Policies



In order to guide government offices for the timely submission of the 2018 FOI Reports, the PCOO issued FOI-MC No. 1 on 7 March 2018. All agencies are required to submit their reports in digital format based on the template and schedule provided.

Further, Task Force AO 25 issued MC No. 2018-1, providing the guidelines in granting the PBB for FY 2018 under EO No. 80, s. 2012 and EO No. 201, s. 2016 on 28 May 2018. One of the identified criteria is the compliance of government agencies to the enhanced FOI Program requirements.

To support the issuance of Administrative Order No. 25, s. 2011, the PCOO issued FOI-MC No. 2 on 18 June 2018 which provides the FOI Program Criteria and Validation Process for eligibility to the PBB for FY 2018. Concerned agencies shall request for validation by sending an email to the FOI-PMO and attaching the direct links to the following: People's FOI Manual signed by the head of agency; the Agency Information Inventory; the 2017 and 2018 FOI Summary Reports; the 2017 and 2018 FOI Registries; and a visible and hyperlinked FOI logo in the agency's homepage.

B. Forging Partnerships

Within the first year of implementation of the Program, the FOI-PMO realized that there is a need for an organized body which will provide strategic direction to the operationalization of the EO. On 2 February 2018, an FOI Policy Consultation Meeting was organized to discuss important policy issues on FOI implementation, as well as the establishment of an FOI Advisory Committee.

The meeting was attended by representatives from key national government agencies, the civil society sector, the business sector, and the academe: DBM; DILG; DOJ; NPC; National Archives of the Philippines (NAP); Right to Know, Right Now! (R2KRN!) Coalition; Caucus of Development Non-government Organizations Network (CODE-NGO); Philippine Chamber and Commerce and Industries (PCCI); De La Salle-Jesse Robredo Institute of Governance (DLSU-JRIG); and University of the Philippines National College of Public Administration and Governance (UP NCPAG).

As a result of the consultation, the PCOO submitted a draft Memorandum Order on the Creation of the FOI Advisory Committee, pending the approval of the Office of the Executive Secretary.

C. Establishing Engagements

In the first half of 2018 alone, the FOI-PMO has participated in and/or conducted a total of nine (9) orientation sessions, thirteen (13) technical onboarding workshops, nineteen (19) collaborative meetings, and 28 FOI-related activities. These activities aim to increase awareness and build capacities of major stakeholders of the FOI Program. Notable engagement activities are detailed below.







FIRST NATIONAL INFORMATION CONVENTION

On 19 February 2018, the first National Information Convention was held in Davao City. The event gathered over 1,000 participants from the government sector, the local and national media, the academe, and communications and technology industry leaders.

The objective was to strengthen partnership between public and private sector communicators.



OPEN DATA DAY PH 2018



In celebration of International Open Data Day --Bantay Kita, Hivos, R2KRN! Coalition, NPC, and the PCOO organized a workshop entitled "Building a Community of Practice around the Right to Information and the Right to Privacy" on 2 March 2018. The event promoted constructive engagement and encouraged dialogue amongst stakeholders on achieving balance between the public's right the know and an individual right to privacy. The event was attended by representatives from national government agencies, CSOs, business sectors, and the academe.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON OPEN RESEARCH

On 3 March 2018, the Institute for Leadership, Empowerment, and Democracy, with support form Open Knowledge International and SPARC convened a roundtable discussion (RTD) on Open Research in the Philippines as part of the International Open Data Day celebration. The RTD invited university libraries, research units of colleges and universities, student organizations, and government and private research institutions to discuss and promote open data research in the country.



6TH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY INITIATIVES IN THE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

On 16 April 2018, various civil society representatives from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao attended Bantay Kita's conference entitled" Towards Empowered Communities Claiming Space, Amplifying Voices". PCOO Assistant Secretary and FOI Program Director Kristian Ablan joined the panel on Human Rights and the Right to Information.



PHILIPPINE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP WEEK 2018



Themed "Going Local: Bringing Government Closer to the Citizens," the two-day workshop showcased and explored localization efforts on open governance and transparency initiatives. It also paved the way for discussions focused on ongoing Open Government Partnership (OGP) commitments which can be implemented at the local level. The FOI-PMO encouraged the LGUs to issue local FOI ordinances through the Ph-OGP subnational platform. The workshop was co-organized with the DBM, PCOO, Hivos, and Bantay Kita.

SUBMISSION OF THE JOINT LETTER APPEAL TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

On 22 May 2018, our Office, together with the R2KRN! Coalition and key partners from government and civil society gathered at the House of Representatives to personally deliver a joint letter addressed to Congressman Karlo Nograles, Chairperson of the House Committee on Appropriations. The joint letter appeals for the consideration of the House Substitute Bill on FOI for the next Committee hearing and subsequently refers the said bill to the Committee on Rules for second reading. Co-signatories include the PCOO, DBM, DOJ, DILG, NPC, NAP, Department of Information and Communications Technology, R2KRN! Coalition, PCCI, CODE-NGO, UP NCPAG, and DLSU-JRIG.



INTERPELLATION OF THE SENATE BILL ON FOI

On 23 May 2018, our Office met with civil society organizations at the Senate of the Philippines in preparation for the interpellation of the FOI Bill on 28 May 2018.



YOUTH SPEAK FORUM



On 17 June 2018, our Office set up an FOI booth during the Youth Speak Forum, an annual event organized by AIESEC for young and senior leaders which aimed to provide an avenue to initiate discussions on national and global issues particularly peace, justice, and strong institutions.

LOCAL WATER UTILITIES ADMINISTRATION WATER DISTRICTS FORUM AND AWARDS 2018

On 17 September 2018, Assistant Secretary Kristian Ablan gave a brief background on the FOI Program and orientation on the Criteria and Validation for the Performance-Based Bonus (PBB) Eligibility for FY 2018 at the LWUA Water Districts Forum and Awards 2018.



CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICERS' FORUM FOUNDATION GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On 24 September 2018, PCOO Assistant Secretary and FOI Program Director Kristian Ablan introduced the FOI Program through a 10-minute panel presentation with the theme: Riding the Wave of Digital Transformation in Government at the 2018 3rd CIOF Conference and General Membership Meeting.



OPEN INFORMATION FOR THE SOUTH COTABATO PROVINCIAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT



Assistant Secretary and FOI Program Director Kristian Ablan promoted transparency in the Government Sector through localizing the FOI Program at the "1st Provincial Integrity Forum: Building Partnerships for Integrity and Inclusive Growth" organized by the Provincial Government of South Cotabato. The LGU included Open Information as one of its commitments to the Subnational OGP Program.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION FOR THE PHILIPPINE COUNCILORS' LEAGUE (PCL)

Assistant Secretary Kristian Ablan conducted an FOI Program orientation to members of the Philippine Councilors' League. This was during PCL's 2018 3rd Quarterly National Executive Officers' Board Meeting and 6th Series of Continuing Local Legislative Education Program with the theme "Trade and Industry: Navigating Toward and Economic Growth in the Midst of Change" on 20 September 2018 at Zamboanga City.



5TH INTERNATIONAL OPEN DATA CONFERENCE AND PRE-EVENTS

The FOI PMO was invited to be part of the 5th International Open Data Conference 2018 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. With the theme "The Future is Open," the week-long event covers a rich diversity of topics and perspectives of people advocating for access to information through open data. FOI Engagement Lead Michelle Manza participated as a panelist for a session on "Open Data in Asia" to share the FOI-PMO's strategic partnerships with other agencies including local governments, civil society organizations, the media, the academe, the private sector, and development partners as a result of the learnings from the experiences of the Open Data Philippines Task Force 2014-2016.



FIRST FOI RECEIVING OFFICERS' HANGOUT



On 18 April 2018, the FOI Team conducted the first ever FOI Receiving Officers' Hangout at Bayleaf Hotel, Intramuros, Manila.The event aims to be a platform for FOI Receiving Officers to discuss major accomplishments, challenges, and innovative solutions to further improve the implementation of the FOI program.Topics that were discussed revolve around handling data privacy issues and list of FOI exceptions, agency information management, handling FOI requests, the eFOI portal, and program monitoring and evaluation.

OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP REGIONAL DIALOGUES

The FOI Team joined the DBM and DILG Regional Dialogues on the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and the Participatory Governance Cluster which aimed to consult local stakeholders on the current commitments to the 4th OGP National Action Plan. The event provided an avenue for civil society organizations and local government units to collaborate and co-develop sub-national OGP commitments.



WWW.FOI.GOV.PH

THE FUTURE VALUE OF DATA

Organized by Facebook, the Ateneo Law School, and DICT, the workshop held on 24 September 2018 explored changes to the value of data from multiple aspects – legal and policy, core motivations, technology shifts, privacy and data protection, efficiency, as well as social, regulatory, and cultural implications.



DILG BANTAY KORAPSYON LAUNCH



On 3 October 2018, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) launched "Bantay-Korapsyon" which aims to intensify the current administration's efforts in battling corruption in the local government. During the launch, OIC Secretary Eduardo Año committed to localize the FOI Program through the issuance of a Joint Memorandum Circular between PCOO and DILG which will encourage local government units to pass their own local FOI Ordinance.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIALOGUES ON FOI, PRIVACY, AND OPEN CONTRACTING FOR LEGAZPI AND SOUTH COTABATO

The FOI Team joined the DBM and DILG Regional Dialogues on the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and the Participatory Governance Cluster which aimed to consult local stakeholders on the current commitments to the 4th OGP National Action Plan. The event provided an avenue for civil society organizations and local government units to collaborate and co-develop sub-national OGP commitments.



CONSEST HROUGH!

A. Institutionalizing Efforts on Localizing the FOI Program

A Milestone for FOI Philippines: FOI for Local Governments PCOO and DILG issue circular for all LGUs to join the FOI Program

The PCOO and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) issued a Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) that provides guidelines and mechanisms for operationalizing the national Freedom of Information (FOI) Program down to the local level.

The PCOO-DILG JMC 2018-01 or "Reiteration of Executive Order No. 2, s. 2016, 'Operationalizing the People's Right to Information and the State Policies of Full Public Disclosure and Transparency in the Public Service'" was finalized by PCOO Secretary Jose Martin M. Andanar and DILG Officer-in-Charge Eduardo M. Año on 9 October 2018 and takes effect immediately.



Eduardo M. Año Officer In Charge, DILG

Año, in his speech at the launch of the DILG's "Bantay-Korapsyon" campaign at Crowne Plaza Hotel in Quezon City on October 3, said the JMC will "encourage LGUs to enact an ordinance or issue a local chief executive's order in support of Freedom of Information,

"as well as " operationalize at their level the Constitutional provisions on public disclosure of state transactions involving public interest and the right of the people to information on matters of public concern."

He added that "the PCOO's electronic FOI platform where the public can request for government information will also be opened to interested LGUs - an initiative that will make local information more accessible to people."

Undersecretary for Operations Epimaco V. Densing expressed the possibility of including local government compliance to the JMC "as one of the criteria of the Department's (DILG's) Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG)."

He encouraged local government units to issue their respective FOI ordinances if they want to be an awardee of SGLG.



Epimaco V. Densing IIIDILG Undersecretary for Operations

As the lead agency in overseeing the implementation of the FOI Program, the FOI-PMO has been actively encouraging LGUs and offices outside the Executive Branch to observe and be guided by the provisions of Executive Order No. 2, s. 2016, even prior to the issuance of the JMC.

To date, nine LGUs (with a mix of cities, municipalities, and provinces in Metro Manila, North Luzon, the Bicol and Calabarzon Regions, the Visayas, and Mindanao) have already issued their local FOI Ordinances, and many more have pledged to follow suit.

Local Government Unit	Date of Approval	Ordinance Number	Title of FOI Ordinance
1. City of Pasig, Metro Manila	13 September 2018	Ordinance 2018-37	"The Pasig Transparency Mechanism Ordinance"
2. City of Laoag, Ilocos Norte	27 June 2017	Ordinance 2017-23	"Freedom of Information Ordinance of Laoag City"
3. Municipality of San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte	8 May 2018	Ordinance 2018-09	"An Ordinance Operationalizing Freedom of Information (FOI) in the Municipal Government of San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte and Providing Guidelines Therefor"
4. Municipality of Pakil, Laguna	24 October 2018		"Pakil, Laguna Transparency Ordinance of 2018"
5. Province of Bohol	31 July 2018		"Bohol Freedom of Information Ordinance"
6. Province of Masbate	20 August 2018		"FOI Ordinance of the Province of Masbate"
7. Province of Surigao Del Norte	22 October 2018	Ordinance 2018-12	"Provincial Freedom of Information Ordinance"
8. Province of Ilocos Norte	September 2016	Ordinance 2016-002	"FOI Ordinance in the Province of Ilocos Norte, providing and implementing that the right of access to information is observed by all offices of the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte, including component cities and municipalities"
9. Province of Benguet	4 September 2018	Ordinance 2018-234	"Operationalizing the Freedom of Information in the Provincial Government of Benguet and Providing Guidelines for Purposes Thereof"

The issuance of the JMC encourages transparency and accountability in governance, and inclusivity and engagement of stakeholders at the local level. The FOI-PMO assures its commitment to provide assistance and guidance to LGUs as they roll out the Freedom of Information Program within their jurisdiction and strengthen the constitutional mandate of right to information.

A citizen's right to information is a guaranteed universal freedom as declared by the United Nations. Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) which states that the fundamental right of freedom of expression encompasses the freedom "to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

Every 28 September, UNESCO's "International Day for the Universal Access to Information" (also known as "Access to Information Day") is being celebrated as a fundamental right.

The current administration issued EO 2 of 2016 and made FOI a priority program.

EO 2 of 2016 covers all national government agencies, government corporations, water districts, and state universities; while PCOO-DILG's JMC includes all provincial, city, and municipal governments. As of date, the FOI Bill is pending in Congress but is expected to be passed to cover all of government, including the legislative and judicial branches.

A copy of the signed JMC can be downloaded from https://goo.gl/7dAK2p.

The FOI-PMO is currently capacitating LGU officials and personnel in granting and processing of requests by citizens for information held by local governments. Requests for information may be in standard

(paper-based) or electronic form.



Pakil Mayor Vincent Soriano and members of the Municipal Council meet with the FOI-PMO; Pakil (the Pilgrimage Town of Laguna) is the first in the Calabarzon Region to issue a local FOI Ordinance



Masbate Vice Governor Kaye Revil holds a public forum with the FOI-PMO; Masbate is the first in the Bicol Region to issue a local FOI Ordinance



PCOO, represented by Assistant Secretary Kris Ablan; and DILG, represented by DILG Officer-in-Charge Eduardo M. Año and DILG Undersecretary Epimaco V. Densing present the PCOO-DILG Joint Memorandum Circular 2018-01 enticing all local governments to join the national FOI Program

- Your Vice Governor believes that economic progress is achievable for Masbate when your government leaders have integrity, capacity, transparency, and accountability.
 - Masbate Vice Governor Kaye Revil



Pasig City Councilor Vico Sotto speaks before students; Pasig is the first in Metro Manila to issue a local FOI Ordinance

LGUs requesting for FOI workshops may contact FOI-PMO through 632-588-0691, inquiry@foi.gov.ph, or facebook.com/foiph.

B. The 2018 FOI Campus Caravan

FOI FOR SCHOOLS

FOI Campus Caravan Reaches Out to Students, Teachers, Researchers

As the designated lead office in the implementation of the FOI Program, the FOI-PMO would like to expand its efforts in fostering a nation of engaged and well-informed citizenry by promoting access to government information within our academic community. We believe that FOI promotes use of truthful information and factual data in the conduct of research, and encourage meaningful discourse among members of the academe on issues of national relevance. Through this initiative, we hope to facilitate the active participation of our academic institutions to nation-building.

In line with this, FOI-PMO regularly conducts information awareness campaigns and capacity-building activities to empower stakeholders in exercising their right to information.

The eFOI Portal reveals that a large number of requests for government information come from the academe and it is apt that the FOI-PMO conduct an "FOI Campus Caravan" to inform students and teachers how they can utilize the Portal to get in-depth, reliable, first-hand, and easily-accessible information from government agencies.



- For the pilot venue of the Caravan, the FOI-PMO partnered with the Kapitolyo High School (Pasig, Metro Manila) on 30 July 2018 and 600 students participated. Pasig City eventually passed its local FOI ordinance, titled "The Pasig Transparency Mechanism Ordinance" on 13 September 2018.
- For the second leg and to reach a private educational institution, we went to Montessori de San Juan (San Juan, Metro Manila) on 23 August 2018 where 70 students joined.
- In Antonio A. Maceda Integrated School (Sta. Mesa, Manila, Metro Manila), 1,200 students attended as participants on 8 October 2018. This school is FOI-PMO's first ever signatory for a joint memorandum wherein the FOI Program is infused within the curricula of the studentry. Faculty members themselves will teach their students the benefits of the FOI in research and writing.

The FOI Campus Caravan features:

The FOI Campus Caravan features:

- 1.) an FOI Program Orientation for Students and Teachers
- 2.) How FOI is the Right Tool for Research
- 3.) "How To Request Information" through the eFOI Portal
- 4.) "One-on-One" eFOI Tutorial for Students and Teachers
- 5.) Actual Requests for Government Information by Students and Teachers
- 6.) FOI-themed Poster-Making and Essay-Writing Contests for Students
- 7.) Open Forum, photo-booth for students, performances by students, and other activities

Kapitolyo High School becomes the first venue of the FOI Campus Caravan wherein 600 students participated







Students of Kapitolyo High School lodge actual requests for government information through the eFOI Portal







The FOI Campus Caravan's second leg was at the Montessori de San Juan, a secondary private school





In the pipeline for the Campus Caravan are:

1.) selected State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) nationwide -- who themselves are covered by the executive order which created the FOI Program -- such as the Polytechnic University of the Philippines; and

2) other private and public secondary and tertiary educational institutions in the provinces, especially those in the Visayas and Mindanao.



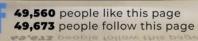
Educational institutions who want to be included in the FOI Campus Caravan in 2019 are requested to contact FOI-PMO through 632-588-0691, inquiry@foi.gov.ph, or facebook.com/foiph.

Reaching More Through the Cyberspace











467 followers on twitter

We reach out not only to the government sector but also to the general public through our social media networks -- Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. With the rise in numbers of tech- savvy Filipinos, FOI Philippines makes sure to keep its online platforms up to date. All vital announcements and basic know-how on the FOI Program are published in our feeds -- step-by-step procedures on requesting for information through the eFOI portal, success testimonials of our requestors, and weekly capacity-building activities for our stakeholders.

We see to it that our platforms are at par with current trends to engage this new generation. The FOI Social Media Team consistently produces innovative content such as promotional videos and animations. We also curate our feeds with creative infographic content. Moreover, we update our viewers by inviting media friends to conduct live coverages for major FOI events. FOI Philippines establishes its online brand so as to communicate to the public that it is a good source of first-hand credible government information.

C. State Universities and Colleges

State Universities and Colleges or SUCs are state-funded schools, colleges, and universities in the Philippines. These are national colleges and universities system, region-wide colleges and universities system, province-wide colleges and universities system, and specialized schools. Locally-funded schools, colleges, and universities are not included.

SUCs are covered by the executive order which created the FOI Program.

The FOI-PMO has been actively evaluating and monitoring the compliance of SUCs to the directives of the EO. To date, 103 out of 112 (92%) of SUCs have established compliance through the submission of their FOI Manuals.



Moreover, 46 SUCs, as of 6 November 2018 (compared to 19 as of 30 September 2018), are now onboard the eFOI Portal wherein the public may request for information from.



SUCs are now recognizing the eFOI website as a central platform where institutions can directly respond to online FOI requests from Filipino citizens. One such SUC is the University of the Philippines (U.P.) System which has opened its doors to the public for transparency. The public can now request information from the U.P. System and from all of its eight constituent units:

- 1.) U.P. Baguio
- 2.) U.P. Cebu
- 3.) U.P. Diliman
- 4.) U.P. Los Baños
- 5.) U.P. Manila
- 6.) U.P. Mindanao
- 7.) U.P. Open University
- 8.) U.P. Visavas

All SUCs are encouraged to join the eFOI website by filling out and submitting the FOI's Onboarding Form (which can be downloaded at bit.ly/efoi-form) to foi.pco@gmail.com and publish a link of the eFOI website (www.foi.gov.ph) to their official websites. The FOI-PMO will assist all pubic educational institutions who wish to capacitate their administrative officials and staff with an FOI orientation and a workshop in handling online requests.

To know more about enrollment to the eFOI Portal, the public may download FOI Memorandum Circular No. 3, series of 2017 from www.foi.gov.ph/resources or coordinate with an FOI-PMO staff at hotline number 02-588-0691.

D. FOI Media Partnerships

The FOI-PMO has been actively engaged in awareness-raising initiatives. As part of its information dissemination activities, it partnered with radio stations for story items. PCOO Assistant Secretary and FOI Program Director Kristian R. Ablan was the main guest and resource person who talked about the FOI Program, countering fake news, and the use of eFOI as a tool for research with the following radio stations:

- 1.) DZMM on 14 July 2018
- 2.) DZRH on 19 July 2018
- 3.) DZIQ on 21 July 2018
- 4.) DDS Podcast 29 July 2018

- 5.) DWIZ on 7 August 2018
- 6.) DZME on 18 August 2018
- 7.) Radyo Pilipinas on 25 August 2018
- 8.) DWDD on 17 October 2018

The year 2019 will see more information dissemination activities, broadcast, and publication in print, radio, TV, on ground, and new (social) media. Also in the pipeline are advertisements in roads, train stations, libraries, government offices, and public venues.



FOI Program Director Kristian Ablan with DWIZ's Jun Del Rosario and Edwin Eusebio and FOI Engagement Officer Arielle Bernabe



FOI Program Director Kristian Ablan with DZME's Sandy Arellano and Von Laylo Dumagtoy and FOI Capacity Development Lead Joan Antonio



FOI Program Director Kristian Ablan with Radyo Pilipinas' Ernest Wang, Sissi Wang, and Merry Ann Bastasa

E. The 2018 FOI Summit and the 2018 FOI Awards

This year, the PCOO in partnership with the DBM held the FOI Summit on 28 November 2018 with the theme, "The Philippine Open Government Partnership and the Freedom of Information Program: Placing Access to Information at the Heart of Open Governance" at the National Museum Auditorium of the National Museum of Fine Arts, Padre Burgos Avenue, Ermita, Manila. The event aims to heighten civil participation amongst Filipinos and normalize public disclosure of government information in achieving transparency.



On the same day, after the Summit, was another prestigious program -the FOI Awards with the theme, "Empowering Citizens Through an
Effective Freedom of Information Program." This event aims to
highlight that through nationwide cooperation, the Program can be a
user-friendly mechanism to access government data and records. Top
government offices, organizations, and private individuals were
gathered and recognized for their notable contribution and
participation towards the success of the FOI Program. FOI Champions
from a Department, an Agency/Bureau/Commission/Council, a GOCC,
and an SUC were given awards. Selected private entities, LGUs, LWDs,
offices outside the Executive Branch, and non-government/CSOs were
likewise given recognition for their efforts in ensuring easy-access to
government information.

The FOI Summit and Awards is an annual celebration dedicated to FOI-PMO's partners, program implementors, and stakeholders that contributed to the Program's achievements.



For more information, updates are available on the FOI Website: www.foi.gov.ph and at the FOI Philippines' Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts.

F. The Inter-Agency FOI Exceptions Policy Committee

The Office of the President issued Memorandum Circular 49-2018 on October 10, 2018, creating an Inter-Agency Freedom of Information Exceptions Policy Committee in order to review and update the list of exceptions to citizens' requests for government information.

This complements President Rodrigo R. Duterte's issuance of Executive Order 2, s. 2016 or the Freedom of Information (FOI) Program of the Philippines, in the Executive Branch to uphold the constitutional right of Filipinos to information on matters of public concern.

As provided for by the EO, Filipinos shall have access to government information, official records, public records, and to documents and papers pertaining to official acts, transactions or decisions, as well as to government research data used as basis for policy development -- as long as it is not covered by the exceptions to the FOI. These exceptions were identified and issued by the Office of the Executive Secretary on 24 November 2016.

The review body created by MC 49-2018 shall update the list of the exceptions to reflect changes in existing laws and jurisprudence.

Heading the body will be the Department of Justice and the Office of the Solicitor General whose representatives (not lower than an Assistant Secretary) will be the chairpersons. The same qualification is required for those representing the three (3) member-agencies: the PCOO, the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel, and the National Privacy Commission. Further, the FOI-PMO will be the Secretariat.

All government offices covered are directed to support the provisions of the Circular.

The Office of the President's Memorandum Circular 49-2018 can be viewed at www.foi.gov.ph/resources.



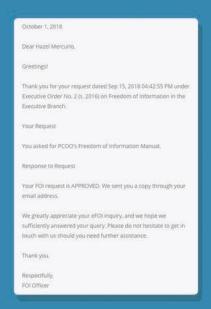


G. Advocating the Balance Between Right to Information and Right to Privacy

We Value Your Privacy

Advisory on the Disclosure of Personal Information Through the eFOI Portal

We gently remind government Freedom of Information (FOI) Program to kindly observe and be guided by the provisions of the **Data**Privacy Act of 2012 in responding to all through our eFOI Portal.



FOR FOI RECEIVING OFFICERS AND DECISION MAKERS:

Please be mindful of the information you disclose in the Message Box of your agency's eFOI Portal Account Dashboard so as **NOT** to include any sensitive personal information of the requesting party, such as the following:



(X) Home Address of Requestor



Email Address of Requestor



(X) Contact number of Requestor

To: Presidential Communications Operations Office

FOR REQUESTORS:

Please be reminded that everything you enter on the Make a New Request Page will be displayed publicly. When accomplishing the eFOI Request Form, kindly refrain from disclosing your personal information in the Message Box, or attaching any document that may contain your personal information, such as the following:



(X) Identifications Cards



Government Issued Numbers

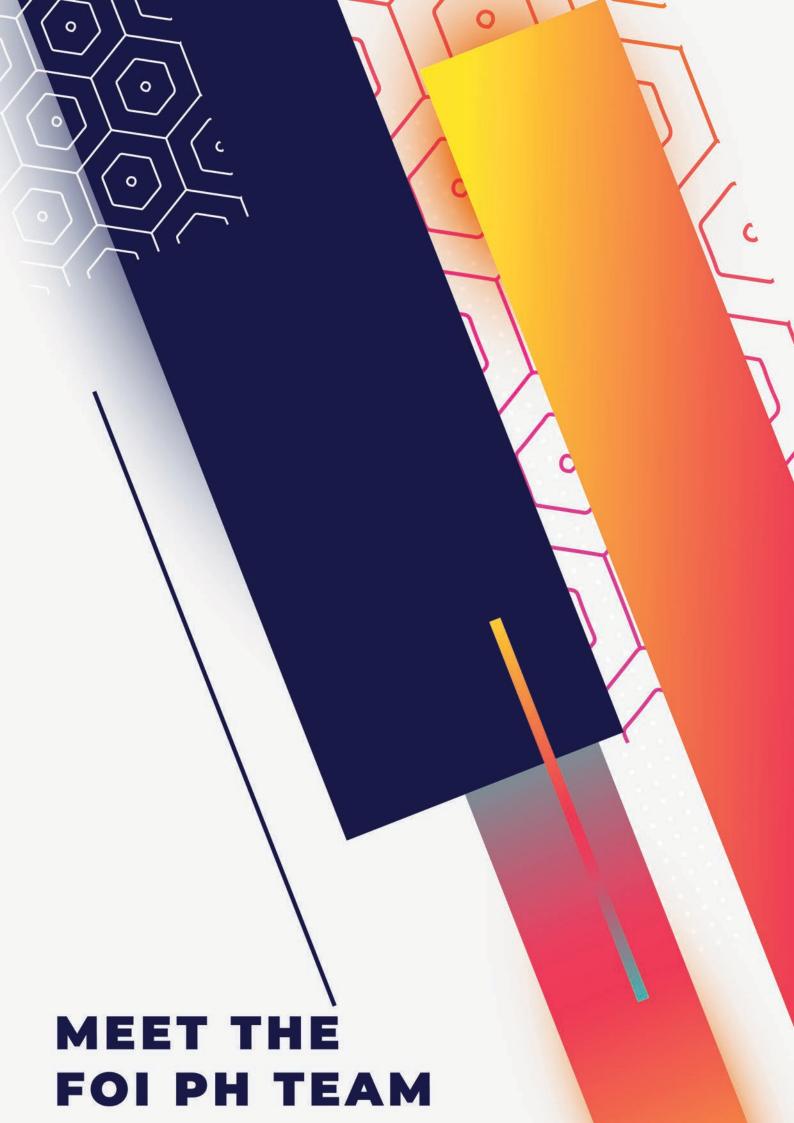


(X) Contact Information



The <u>Make a New Request</u> Page, however, should not be confused with the <u>Create an Account</u> Page, where you will be required to provide your contact details and attach your proof of identification.







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THE FOI TEAM



