



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS OFFICE**  
*Tanggapang Pampanguluhan sa Operasyong Pangkomunikasyon*  
Malacañang, Manila

Advisory No. 04, S. 2020

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ADVISORY**

FOR : **ALL CONCERNED PARTIES**

**ALL AGENCIES, DEPARTMENTS, BUREAUS, OFFICES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND/OR-CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS, STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES, LOCAL WATER DISTRICTS, AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION - PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE PERSONNEL**

SUBJECT : **EXTENSION AND LIFTING OF THE SUSPENSION OF THE PERIOD TO RESOLVE FOI REQUESTS DUE TO COVID-19**

DATE : **1 June 2020**

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**WHEREAS**, the Freedom of Information – Project Management Office (FOI-PMO) issued Advisory No. 1 on 16 March 2020, suspending the period to resolve FOI requests until 12 April 2020. Subsequently, Advisory No. 2 was issued on 08 April 2020, extending the suspension of the period to resolve FOI requests until 30 April 2020. Finally, Advisory No. 3 was issued on 29 April 2020, further extending the suspension of the period to resolve FOI requests until lifting of the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) and lifting the suspension of the period to resolve FOI requests for all Agencies, Departments, Bureaus, Offices and Instrumentalities of the Executive branch, including Government-Owned and/or-Controlled Corporations, State Universities and Colleges, and Local Water Districts, whose principal location is declared under the General Community Quarantine (GCQ);

**WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 41 issued by the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases placed low-risk provinces, Highly Urbanized Cities (HUCs) and Independent Component Cities (ICCs) under Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ), while moderate-risk provinces, HUCs and ICCS are placed under GCQ, starting 01 June 2020, without prejudice to the declaration of localized ECQ;

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order No. 02, S. 2016 operationalizes in the Executive branch the people's constitutional right to information and the state policies to full public disclosure and transparency in the public service;

**WHEREAS**, Memorandum Order (MO) No. 10, S. 2016 designated the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) as the lead agency in the implementation of EO No. 02, S. 2016, and all other FOI programs and initiatives including electronic FOI;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the foregoing and pursuant to the functions of the FOI-PMO to develop policies, rules, procedures and regulations necessary to provide the strategic direction in implementing the FOI Program, the following are hereby advised:

**Section 1. Extension of the suspension of the period to resolve FOI Requests for offices under ECQ or MECQ.** The period to resolve any new FOI Request made from 13 March 2020 and all pending FOI Requests are hereby suspended for all Agencies, Departments, Bureaus, Offices and Instrumentalities of the Executive branch, including Government-Owned and/or-Controlled Corporations (GOCCs), State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), and Local Water Districts (LWDs) whose principal location is under ECQ or MECQ, until such time that GCQ or MGCQ is declared.

**Section 2. Lifting of suspension to resolve FOI requests for offices under GCQ or MGCQ.** All Agencies, Departments, Bureaus, Offices and Instrumentalities of the Executive branch, including GOCCs, SUCs, and LWDs whose principal location is under GCQ or MGCQ, shall resume processing of FOI requests starting the day of effectivity of GCQ or MGCQ in their principal locations.

Pursuant to IATF Resolution No. 41, s. 2020, the following provinces, HUCs, and ICCs shall be placed under Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ) until 15 June 2020:

a. For Luzon:

- i. Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) – Abra, Apayao, Baguio, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga, Mountain Province;
- ii. Region I – Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Dagupan City;
- iii. Region IV-B – Marinduque, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Romblon, Palawan; and
- iv. Region V – Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, Masbate, Sorsogon, Legazpi City, and Naga City.

b. For Visayas:

- i. Region VI – Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Guimaras, Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Iloilo City, Bacolod City; and

- ii. Region VIII – Biliran, Eastern Samar, Leyte, Northern Samar, Western Samar, Southern Leyte, Ormoc City, Tacloban City.
- c. For Mindanao:
- i. Region IX – Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga Sibugay, Isabela City;
  - ii. Region X – Bukidnon, Camiguin, Lanao del Norte, Misamis Occidental, Misamis Oriental, Cagayan de Oro City;
  - iii. Region XI – Davao de Oro, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao Occidental, Davao Oriental;
  - iv. Region XII – North Cotabato, South Cotabato, Sarangani, Sultan Kudarat, General Santos City;
  - v. Region XIII (Caraga) – Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Dinagat Islands, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Butuan City; and
  - vi. Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) – Basilan, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu, Tawi-tawi, Cotabato City.

The following provinces, HUCs, and ICCs shall be placed under General Community Quarantine (GCQ) until 15 June 2020:

- a. For Luzon:
- i. Pangasinan;
  - ii. Region II – Batanes, Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Santiago City;
  - iii. Region III – Aurora, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac, Zambales, Angeles City, Olongapo City;
  - iv. Region IV-A – Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon, Lucena City; and
  - v. All HUCs of the National Capital Region and the municipality of Pateros.
- b. For Visayas:
- i. Region VII – Bohol, Cebu, Negros Oriental, Siquijor, Cebu, Mandaue City, Lapu-lapu City.
- c. For Mindanao:
- i. Zamboanga City; and
  - ii. Davao City.

**Section 3. Automatic suspension of the period to resolve FOI requests in location re-declared to be under ECQ, under localized ECQ or implementing the zoning concept.** All Agencies, Departments, Bureaus, Offices and Instrumentalities of the Executive branch, including GOCCs, SUCs, and LWDs whose principal location is under the GCQ or MGCQ, which later on declared to be under ECQ, localized ECQ or implementing the zoning concept

upon rechecking, shall automatically suspend the period to resolve any new FOI Request and all pending FOI Requests until such time that it is lifted.

**Section 4. Non-preclusion to process FOI requests.** This Advisory shall not preclude any Agencies, Departments, Bureaus, Offices and Instrumentalities of the Executive branch, including GOCCs, SUCs, and LWDs, whose principal location is under ECQ, MECQ, localized ECQ or implementing the zoning concept, with sufficient capacity, to continue to process and resolve FOI Requests.

**Section 5. Effectivity.** This Advisory shall take effect immediately.



**ATTY. KRISTIAN R. ABLAN**  
Assistant Secretary and FOI Program Director