Delivering the Right Information in the Time of the Pandemic

2019/20

FOI Philippines Annual Report

Wear a mask and exercise your right to ask
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- Strategic Partnership Unit (StratPar)  
- FOI Radio Team  
- FOI Champion  
- FOI Program Director
Vision

1. To oversee the implementation of all FOI and e-FOI programs for all government agencies in the Executive Branch and monitor compliance;

2. To develop programs and mechanisms to capacitate all government agencies in the Executive Branch, including assisting the Local Government Units (LGUs) in drafting their ordinances in implementing FOI in their respective jurisdictions; and

3. To conduct capacity building programs and information education campaigns.

Core Values

Accountability  Transparency  Good Governance  Citizens Participation

Mission

The FOI Program aims to give every Filipino access to information, official records, public records, and documents and papers pertaining to official acts, transactions, or decisions, as well as to government research data and promote transparency and accountability in the public sector.

I commend the FOI-PMO’s indispensable role in rebuilding our people’s trust in the government by advancing and implementing programs that promote transparency, honesty and accountability in governance.

I also acknowledge the spirited and dynamic collaboration that the PCOO has fostered with various local government units, which provides for prompt and efficient access to information on this administration’s policies and undertakings.

As you recognize individuals, agencies and organizations for their effective adherence to FOI standards, may you also carry out your duties in a more responsive way, especially with the challenges presented to us by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Now, more than ever, let us work hand in hand to render equitable social services as we pave the way for a more informed and empowered citizenry.

Congratulations and mabuhay kayong lahat!

Rodrigo Roa Duterte
President
Republic of the Philippines

The fourth year of Freedom of Information (FOI) implementation has brought remarkable achievements in our pursuit of transparency and accountability in the government. The Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) had worked hard to fulfill the President’s promise of providing our people access to information.

Through FOI-Project Management Office (FOI-PMO), the PCOO, as the lead agency in the implementation of the FOI Program, has been tirelessly doing its job to keep people informed of the plans, targets, and actions that our President has laid out for the nation. We recognize the important role of efficient and broad information dissemination, which the PCOO has delivered to the public through projects, capacity building activities, social media engagements, as well as through agency-produced TV and radio programs.

Our accomplishments for this year would have not been possible without our partners and FOI implementers in the Executive Branch. I sincerely express my gratitude to all FOI Champions, Decision Makers, Receiving Officers, Civil Society Organizations, and government partners who have been the pillars of our efforts in public service delivery, especially during this time of crisis.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has posed great risks to our countrymen and serious challenges to government operations. However, this crisis also made us realize that information plays a critical role in effective governance and protecting public welfare. Our countrymen, as much as possible and without demand, should be provided with timely and relevant information.

Another vital undertaking, together with the FOI-PMO, is the pushing for the passage into law of the FOI Bill. All the hard work and initiatives that have been put in will be meaningless without an FOI Law. The institutionalization of the FOI Program is crucial, especially, as we near the home stretch of this Administration. I am looking forward to an encompassing FOI mechanism that shall be implemented across all branches of government and down to the Local Government Units.

Our desire for development requires accountability. Thus, it is imperative to elevate public disclosure to a level yet unprecedented. However, this is no one man’s job. It requires cooperation and collective action.

I strongly believe that initiatives involving transparency, good governance, and integrity shall shape the future of our country. We, as public servants, must be bold and strive tenfold, so that we may leave noteworthy legacies that will benefit the present and future generations.

Joseph R. De Leon
Secretary and FOI Champion
Presidential Communications Operations Office

Message of the President of the Philippines  Message of the PCOO Secretary and FOI Champion
The Freedom of Information - Project Management Office (FOI-PMO) is honored to present our developments in FOI Implementation through this 2020 FOI Philippines Annual Report. This year has marked great strides in pushing for transparency and accountability in the government. This report will demonstrate how we moved beyond the traditional means of conducting stakeholder engagement and promoting FOI across the country.

In March 2020, we witnessed a dramatic turning point in our operations. The pandemic greatly affected our dynamics especially with the implementation of the Enhanced Community Quarantine in Metro Manila. Nevertheless, this crisis revealed itself as metamorphic.

The FOI-PMO has been evolving along with the tide of the new normal. Despite the challenges in public service delivery, the team has developed mechanisms to still be able to exercise our functions by converting most of our services online. It continually assists FOI Officers and PBB Focal Persons and keep them updated with the latest updates of the FOI Program, an FOI Online Consultation System (FOCOS) was created. We also transitioned our conduct of the FOI Receiving Officers’ (FRO) Hangout digitally to continually provide for avenues for FRDs to discuss major accomplishments, challenges, and innovative solutions to further improve the implementation of the FOI program. Moreover, we have conducted virtual FOI Conferences for LGUs to disseminate FOI Program awareness to the Local Chief Executives and encourage them to pass their respective FOI Ordinances.

This year has made us realize the significant value of shared knowledge and responsibility in attaining our desired change. We have a total record of 676 information, education, and communication (IEC) activities organized and participated in. Given the challenging circumstances, the FOI-PMO conducted “In Focus: Capturing Transparency in Budgeting and Public Procurement in the Time of COVID-19,” which was a series of webinars focusing on budget transparency and public procurement as a way of building and strengthening public trust and confidence in governance amid the prevailing health crisis. Further, the FOI-PMO constantly develops new training programs particularly designed for our target stakeholders. This includes the FOI Student Ambassadors’ Camp, which was launched to train and partner with student leaders in advancing FOI in their respective campuses. The Office also offers a CPA-Accredited Webinar for Librarians as part of our ongoing initiatives to expand our reach to academic institutions and information specialists.

To further utilize the FOI Program in promoting government programs and services, the FOI-PMO has ventured on multimedia platforms. Through a Co-Production Agreement with Intercontinental Broadcasting Corporation (IBC) 13, we produce a Public Affairs Television Program entitled, “FOI,” that features government agencies and provides them a platform to raise awareness on their respective mandate and projects. On the other hand, a radio show of the same nature, “FOI sa Radyo,” is aired in Radyo Filipinas 1. Along with these initiatives, an online course on FOI, also known as “Freedom of Information 101,” was also developed through a partnership agreement with the Development Academy of the Philippines in response to the rise of online learning. In the third quarter of 2020, we were able to take part in the International Day of Universal Access to Information (IDUA) by organizing a Virtual Multi-Arts Festival aimed at unleashing the creativity of every Filipino in depicting and advocating the importance of access to various forms and means of art while incorporating our unique Filipino identity and culture. FOI Philippines has been employing strong social media engagement strategies to extend our engagement with the online public.

As much as we have been exerting efforts in bringing FOI all over the country, all means possible, policies were made to facilitate efficient FOI implementation. To easily inform citizens of the procedure of requesting government information, we encouraged agencies to produce a printed and digital copy of One-Page FOI Manual for online and create distribution pursuant to FOI-MC No. 3, s. 2020. Like the past years, FOI has earned its spot again in the Performance-Based Bonus (PBB) Requirements in accordance with the FOI-MC No. 2, s. 2020, thus prompting government compliance to the FOI Program.

We are also proud to share that the FOI-PMO has been recognized as an accredited member of International Conference of Information Commissioners (ICIC), an international forum for information rights across the world. We have successfully complied with the eligibility criteria of protecting, promoting, and ensuring access to public information in the Philippines. The FOI Philippines is the first member of the ICIC among Southeast Asian countries. Along the same vein, we are also delighted to share with you that the FOI Philippines is also a part of the Asia Open Data Partnership (AODP), an international network composed of the government, non-governmental organizations, private sector, and academic institutions actively working on and promoting the development and application of open data in Asia.

On top of it all, the FOI-PMO has been tirelessly fighting for the passage of the FOI Bill. In our aim to achieve accountability across all branches of the government and make information easily accessible to all Filipinos, we call for the support of all agencies, citizen, and non-government partners in lobbying for the passage of the FOI Bill.

Our fourth year of implementation has faced relatively high expectations as we have laid out comprehensive plans and have set numerous projects in light of our Smart Citizen campaign. However, setbacks are effective instruments of redirection and solutions. We are left to explore alternatives in advancing the FOI Program and we have a clearer vision of our purpose: providing truthful and reliable government information for the welfare of the Filipino people.

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From the FOI Program Director

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2019/20 FOI Philippines Annual Report
2019/20 FOI Accomplishments

Brief Summary

- 69% FOI Manuals Compliance
- 40,386 Standard / Paper-Based Requests Filed
- 69% Success Rate in processing requests in the eFOI portal
- 42,086 eFOI Portal Requests Filed
- 4,206 FOI Officers Designated Across Government Agencies
- 490 Government Agencies onboard the eFOI portal
- 32 LGUs passed their ordinances or issued EOIs localizing Access to Information
- 676 Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities organized and participated in
- 229,559 Records consolidated from the Agency Information Inventory
- 07 Working Days Average Processing Time
It has been almost four (4) years since President Rodrigo Roa Duterte issued EO No. 2 s. 2016, which allowed the operationalization of the people’s right to information in the Executive branch. The PCOO was thereafter designated as the lead agency in the implementation of the FOI Program. The FOI-PMO was subsequently established under the PCOO to monitor compliance and lead the FOI Program including the electronic FOI in the Executive branch. Since then, it has continuously expanded its efforts in fostering a nation of truly engaged and well-informed citizenry by promoting access to information through standard paper-based and electronic platforms.

The FOI Program is one of the commitments of PCOO in the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 under Chapter 5: Ensuring People-Centered, Clean, and Efficient Governance, Sub-sector Outcome 4: Citizenry fully-engaged and empowered.

The following are the specific commitments included in the plan:

- Submission of FOI Manuals to the Office of the Executive Secretary
- Onboarding of National Government Agencies (NGAs) and Government-Owned and -Controlled Corporations (GOCCs) in the eFOI portal
- Completion and publication of Agency Information Inventory

Inclusion of FOI Program Accomplishments in the President’s Report to the People (PRP)

The FOI-PMO provided an update on the status of FOI Program, its significance during the time of pandemic, as well as the milestones achieved during the operationalization of the Program. The submitted report on the FOI Program was included in the President’s Report to the People which was released on the day of the State of the Nation Address (SONA).
Policies
made relative to the implementation of the FOI Program

01
FOI Memorandum Circular No. 1 S 2020 - Development of One-page FOI Manual

The FOI MC No. 01, s. 2020 recommends that all agencies under the Executive branch produce an abridged version of the FOI Manual or the One-Page FOI Manual.

02
FOI Memorandum Circular No. 2 S 2020 - FOI Program Criteria and Validation process for the eligibility to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Performance-Based Bonus (PBB)

FOI MC No. 2, s. 2020 provides the guidelines of the FOI Program criteria and validation process for the eligibility for the grant of the Performance-Based Bonus for Fiscal Year 2020 under EO No. 80, s. 2012, and EO No. 201, s. 2016.

03
FOI Memorandum Circular No. 3 S 2020 - Existing Programs and Projects of Agencies covered under Executive Order No. 114, s. 2020 or the “Balik Probinaya, Bagong Pag-asa Program”

In line with EO No. 114, s. 2020, the FOI-PMO issued FOI MC No. 3, s. 2020 on 24 July 2020 enjoining all member agencies covered under EO No. 114 to support the BP2 by providing information on their existing projects and programs in the different regions of the Philippines that are focused on addressing concerns of BP2 beneficiaries. All the information gathered shall be collated and shall be included in the creation of the FOI-PMO’s “Information Pack” initiative.

04
FOI Memorandum Circular No. 4 S 2020 - 2020 FOI Awards Guidelines and Nomination Form

As part of the annual celebration of the signing of EO No. 2, s. 2016, establishing the FOI Program in the Executive branch, the FOI-PMO will hold its 2020 FOI Awards on 25 November 2020. The event is to recognize the efforts of the top compliant and performing government agencies in the implementation of the FOI Program in the Executive branch, as well as our institutional partners, individuals, and civil society organizations, which helped us achieve our goals in implementing the program especially during this time of crisis.

05
Inter-Agency FOI Exceptions Policy Committee Resolution

In August 2020, the Inter Agency Freedom of Information Exceptions Policy Committee signed Resolution 2019-002 recommending to their respective agencies the appointment of Security Officers who will undergo training with the National Intelligence and Coordinating Agency and/or Armed Forces of the Philippines. The training will primarily deal with the Classification of Government Documents.

International Recognition

FOI Philippines: an accredited member of the ICIC

The FOI-PMO is now an accredited member of the International Conference of Information Commissioners (ICIC), a forum for information rights across the world. The FOI-PMO successfully met the primary eligibility criteria of protecting, promoting, and ensuring the respect of access to public information in the Philippines in its four-year program implementation under the leadership of PCOO Secretary and FOI Champion Jose Ruperto Martin Andanar and Assistant Secretary and FOI Program Director Kristian R. Abilan.

As global progress is becoming collective, the ICIC provides a platform to unite voices from the international community on raising awareness on the impact and effects of access to public information. This great endeavor propels the development and adoption of certain international standards on how to access public information globally, including the establishment of independent information commissions.

Being internationally recognized is another step for the FOI Program to become more than just an EO; another step for our country to be a transparent nation.

Information for the Nation - that is FOI’s goal and mission.
As the EO on FOI only covers the Executive branch, the PCOO endeavors to push for the passage of the FOI legislation.

**3,549 citizens** signified their support for the passage of the FOI Bill.

Based on a thorough review of the top requested information from government agencies since 2017, the PCOO observed that there is a high demand for local, granular information such as Internal Revenue Allotments, Regional Development Plans, and information on the Local Government Support Fund, among others. This supports the presumption that people demand more information at the local level which has a direct impact on their everyday lives.

Photo from City Government of Muntinlupa
As of this writing, 32 LGUs had successfully passed their own FOI Ordinances, thereby institutionalizing transparency not only at the Executive branch but also at the subnational level.

FOI Conference for LGUs

The FOI Conference for LGUs aims to promote awareness on the FOI Program implementation; and encourage LGUs to pass their respective FOI Ordinance to promote transparency, accountability, and localization of the right to access information.

In summary, the following has been accomplished through the conduct of said activity: 160 participants attended and 64 LGUs were represented; explained the FOI Program and eFOI platform to the LGUs; and, introduced the FOI - LGU Acceleration Program.

First LGUs to onboard the eFOI portal

Luzon 21 February 2020 in Baguio City | Visayas 28 August 2020 via Zoom Conference

City of Antipolo, Region IV-A
The sole component city and capital of the Province of Rizal

City of Pasig, National Capital Region
One of the oldest towns in the Philippines

Municipality of Pakil, Laguna
Provides the Public to Access Information from the Municipality of Pakil, Laguna

City of Legazpi, Region V
The City of Fun and Adventure
FOI Requirements

Government agencies under the Executive branch are required to submit their People’s FOI Manuals defining how it will facilitate FOI requests as provided under the EO No. 2, s. 2016. The Manual must be published in print format – to guide ordinary citizens who do not have internet access, and in digital format – for the public who wish to request for information without physically going to government offices. The following government agencies under the Executive branch have complied with the directives of the EO through the submission of their FOI Manuals:

- **NGAs**: 188
- **SUCs**: 107
- **GOCs**: 102
- **LWDs**: 240

(complied with the validation process)

FY 2019 Performance-Based Bonus (PBB) Compliance

Through the initiative of the DBM and the PCOO, the FOI Program requirements (i.e., posting of agency FOI manual, FOI Reports, and FOI logo in the agency’s website) have been included as criteria under the Other Cross-Cutting Requirements category for eligibility to grant PBB for FY 2019 Performance Targets.

![Image of compliance rates]

(Number of agencies compiled with FOI-PMO’s validation process)

FY 2020 PBB Guidelines

Thereafter, in May 2020, the FOI-PMO proposed and submitted an enhanced FOI Program requirements to the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Harmonization of National Government Monitoring, Information and Reporting Systems (AO No. 25, s. 2011) for inclusion in the FY 2020 PBB Guidelines. And in May 2020, the proposed enhanced FOI Program requirements, including the Modified One-Page FOI Manual was included in the draft FY 2020 PBB Guidelines.

![Image of compliance rates]

Note: Excluded:
- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) National Kidney Transplant Institute (NKTi), and the Center of the Philippines (UTCI) as attached offices and hospitals under the DOH and as such, should not be treated as separate agencies.
- Due to the merging of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) and the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) under the new name of Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHUS), the former HUDCC consolidated States as one (1) NGA.
- Due to the merging of the Home Utility Expansion and Rehabilitation (HNER) and the Philippine Electric Power Credit Agency (PHEPAD) pursuant to EO No. 58, s. 1998, the former HUDCC consolidated States as one (1) GOC.
Consistent with the Duterte administration’s vision of “a comfortable life for all”, the FOI Program not only aims to increase access to information, but also revolutionize how the government discloses information to the public. Through the electronic FOI (eFOI) Portal (www.foi.gov.ph), an online platform where citizens can request for data and information—access to information is now at their disposal making the process easier and more convenient.

In four (4) years of implementation, there is a substantial increase in the supply of and demand for government information which can be seen in the following:

### Number of Onboarded Agencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Agencies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016/17</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017/18</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018/19</td>
<td>447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019/20</td>
<td>490</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Number of eFOI Portal Users

- **2019/20**: 12,912
- **2018/19**: 3,378
- **2017/18**: 2,003
- **2016/17**: 6,796

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**Status of Requests**

- Successful: 19,407
- Unsuccessful: 13,178
- Processing: 7,912
- Closed: 1,989

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**Catalaya Amaya** recommends FOI Philippines. January 28

It is a very useful site...It promotes awareness, community-oriented and patriotic citizens.

**Vincent Venapen Bitaga Valenzuela** recommends FOI Philippines. March 16

Very useful and valuable!

**Maglas Salvacion** recommends FOI Philippines. January 28

Freedom of information is a right under the law. This page is a useful site for any inquiries about our government.
The FOI-PMO upgrades the eFOI website by updating its contents. These updates include deployment of chatbot Freedom of Information Digital Assistant (FRIDA), online deployment of various issuances, deployment of IATF resolutions, onboarding of agencies; updating of FOI officers’ accounts in the portal; and resolving eFOI service desk tickets or addressing eFOI portal issues and concerns.

**Summary of Request for Information**

- **2016/17**: 337
- **2017/18**: 649
- **2018/19**: 1,195
- **2019/20**: 2,296

- **2016/17**: 1,875
- **2017/18**: 360
- **2018/19**: 778
- **2019/20**: 1,318

**Top Requested Government Agencies**

- **2016/17**: 181
- **2017/18**: 295
- **2018/19**: 336
- **2019/20**: 1,223

**Average Number of Requests per Agency**

- **2016/17**: 18
- **2017/18**: 23
- **2018/19**: 35
- **2019/20**: 62

**Technical Performance of the eFOI Portal**

*For 2019, as of December. For 2020, as of 30 September 2020.*

- **Website uptime:** 2019: 96.74% | 2020: 99.84%
- **TCP connection time:** 2019: 7.17 ms | 2020: 7.0 ms
- **Remote server processing:** 2019: 281.02 ms | 2020: 327.39 ms
- **DNS Lookup time:** 2019: 135.22 ms | 2020: 115.89 ms
- **TLS connection time:** 2019: 36.58 ms | 2020: 34.37 ms
- **Content download:** 2019: 861.67 ms | 2020: 901.95 ms

**Ask away!**

Request for Information

- **Uptime Checks / SSL Health Check**
  - **Average Uptime**: 98.94%
  - **Average Latency**: 563.88 ms
  - **SSL Health**: 100%
  - **Total Performance Average**:
    - **2019**: 1316.40 ms
    - **2020**: 1374.25 ms
Information, Engagement, and Communications

The FOI Program provides free service, accessible through the eFOI Portal at www.foi.gov.ph, and posts daily updates on its official FOI Facebook page. Its projects include: FOI Compliance Consultation and Workshop, FOI Online Consultation System, FOI Receiving Officers’ Hangout, Training of Trainers for different sectors, FOI Technical Training Program for SUCs, LGUs, and LGUs, 2019 FOI Summit and Awards, Transparency Caravan, FOI Student Ambassadors Camp, FOI Workshop for Librarians, FOI Campus Caravan, Press Freedom Caravan, and more.
The FOI’s TV show entitled For Your Information (F.Y.I.) is a public service television program to keep the public on the loop with the latest projects, policies, and programs of the government. F.Y.I airs every Sunday at IBC-13, 8:30pm to 9:00pm.

F.Y.I Official Facebook page: www.facebook.com/FYI.PHOfficial/

On 2 July 2020, through FOI-PMO, the PCOO and IBC-13 signed a Co-Production Agreement media collaboration and Brand integration to effectively promote Filipino citizens’ right to access information through F.Y.I television program.

“Yung FY.I. po ang TV Program na para sa masa po talaga. Maraging salamat po at finally may TV program na naginform sa mga Pilipino, katulad ko, ng mga serbisyo ng gobyerno na madalas ay hindi naipapanatili.”

-Mary Rose Bacera-Geronimo
Respondent, Episode 8

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION SA RADYO**

To further reach more Filipinos in the countryside, FOI-PMO launched “FOI sa Radyo” which covers the various government efforts in transparency, promotes programs and other initiatives of all government offices especially in this time of pandemic.

The FOI sa Radyo airs every Friday, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM over the government’s flagship radio station Radyo Pilipinas 1 and streamed live via Facebook.

“More than 82,000 views from the live streamed episodes of FOI sa Radyo”

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**Episode** | **Date** | **Guest Agency** | **Guest Co-Host**
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1 | 14 August 2020 | Presidential Communications Operations Office | Rheaime Pascua
2 | 21 August 2020 | National Privacy Commission | Keiza Cansy Auejar
3 | 28 August 2020 | Department of Interior and Local Government | Ma. Krishnamah Amidoval
4 | 04 September 2020 | City Government of Pasig | Danica Orcullo
5 | 11 September 2020 | Department of Transportation | Eden Mendoza
6 | 18 September 2020 | Metropolitan Manila Development Authority | Kristian Veil Nieves
7 | 25 September 2020 | Department of Education | Atty. Tristan De Guzman
8 | 2 October 2020 | Commission on Higher Education | John Ryan B. Salonga
9 | 9 October 2020 | Department of Science and Technology | Luna Jorge
10 | 16 October 2020 | Office of Alternative Dispute Resolution | Atty. Tristan De Guzman
FOI’s TV AND RADIO ENGAGEMENT

The Freedom of Information has appeared and has been featured in different television and radio programs this year. PCOO Assistant Secretary and FOI Program Director has been invited as guest and resource speaker in various public affairs programs nationwide.

These media engagements provided an opportunity to showcase FOI program’s accomplishments to a wider audience, and clarify issues surrounding the implementation of the program.

**RADIO GUESTINGS**

**RMN Zamboanga with Bhong Simbajan**
May 13, 2020

**DZJV 1458 Radyo Calabarzon Diskarte with Daniel Castro**
May 12, 2020

**DWZR Radio Legazpi with Erasto “Bing” Alerta**
June 3, 2020

**Cebu Catholic Television Network International, Inc. (CCTN 47 with Junino Padilla**
May 16, 2020

**TV GUESTINGS**

**ABS-CBN - Fallion Ngayon with Ted Fallon**
January 5, 2020

**One Media Company Inc. - Face the Nation with Howell Mabaot and Lorlyn Garcia-Valade**
July 18, 2020

**One News - The Chiefs with Luchi Cruz-Valdez, Ed Lingao, Roby Almápoy, and Amy Pamintuan**
September 16, 2020

A news and public affairs radio program hosted by PCOO Secretary Martin Andanar, Assistant Secretary Kris Ablan, and Assistant Secretary JV Arcena, aims to inform the public regarding the projects and initiatives of the government for increased transparency and civic engagement. The program hosts also interview other government officials from different agencies to clarify issues relating to public concerns.

Cabinet Report sa Teleradyo is being aired every Friday from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM in Radyo Pilipinas 738 KHz.
Television

The FOI PMO has partnered with different TV stations to air two (2) FOI audio-visual materials. Among the TV stations that have aired the materials are: GMA, ABS-CBN, TV5, and IZA.

Out-of-Home Advertising

The FOI PMO has partnered with different national government agencies with unique media touchpoints and assets to air/play our FOI audio-visual materials. These were the National Printing Office (EDSA Billboard), Philippine Ports Authority (Regional and Provincial Ports), Manila International Airport Administration (Airports), Department of Transportation and Light Rail Transit Authority (Railways).

Airports and Cable Ads

The FOI PMO tapped a third-party service provider, Island Living Channel, to air our FOI-related materials in their regional cable channel, and informed airports and seaports in three (3) major island clusters. From Batanes to Tawi-tawi, the materials were being aired on a daily basis during the duration of the contract.

Information and Communication Materials

The FOI PMO has produced various IEC materials such as posters on FOI process; briefers on EO2, pamphlets, comics, and annual report. Some of which were translated in different local/regional languages. All IEC materials were also uploaded in the eFOI portal for easy access.

Data Stories

The FOI PMO recognizes the importance of translating data into story and visualization so that it can be easily understood by the public and key stakeholders of the program.

1

This is an important reminder from the National Telecommunications Commission with regards to lost or stolen mobile phones. The said public service announcement is based on the requests for information lodged through the NTC under the eFOI portal.

2

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) oversees the welfare of our compatriots working abroad. For services and other information, just call the OWWA 24/7 Hotline.

3

The Department of Agriculture showed the top 5 countries with most volume of banana exports as of 2017 with the Republic of Ecuador (6,567,037 Metric Tons) as the lead exporter then followed by the Republic of the Philippines.
Social Media Engagement

The FOI Philippines has been active in social media engagement to promote the FOI program and engage with the public.

Through our different social media postings, boosts, promotions, and updates, the FOI Facebook page has reached:

- 63,164 followers
- 61,751 likes
- 98% response rate

The page’s monthly response rate is at and maintains its “Very Responsive” badge.

- 33 new followers
- 280 visits
- 13 mentions
- 28.3k tweet impressions

Google Ads. FOI Google Ads was successfully deployed on 18 June 2020. FOI-FMO coordinated with PCCO and BCS on PCCO’s Google Ads Initiative and also provided a list of keywords and ad groups for the eFOI campaign. Now, with search network campaign type of google ads, eFOI or FOI can show on Google Search results pages when someone searches for FOI or similar keywords.

About this year’s FOI Annual Report

The Freedom of Information (FOI) Philippines Report is an annual and open-access report. It is the official publication of the FOI Project Management Office (FOI-PMO) under the Presidential Communications Operations Office, Malacañang, Manila.

The FOI Philippines Report is dedicated to discuss the notable achievements with its vision to cultivate an informed and empowered citizenry through continuously promoting awareness-raising, capacity building, and knowledge sharing on the FOI Program to its stakeholder.

2019/20 Annual Report

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Learning despite the challenges: FOI's comprehensive approach to capacity development

To further widen the reach of the Program, a total of 676 information, education, and communication activities had been organized and participated in by the FOI-PMO. These include media engagements, major events, orientation sessions, technical workshops, collaborative meetings, consultations and fora, press freedom caravan activities, and international events.

This FOI Ambassador’s Camp has got to be one of the best experiences so far this year. I had the opportunity to meet terrific student leaders and student journalists all over Luzon. Being around such remarkable people backed up by the PCOO-FOI Team with their excellent and informative keynote speakers, it made me realize the important essence of factual information, proper communication, and effective leadership.

Jed Tristan V. Quinto
University of Northern Philippines

A total of nine (9) FOI Campus Caravans were conducted in 2019 at the following campuses:

- Ilocos Sur
- La Union
- Biliran
- Guimaras
- Bohol
- Eastern Samar
- Cebu
- Davao
- Negros

As part of the Multi-Sectoral Roadshows, the FOI-PMO holds FOI Campus Caravan to educate students and members of the academe on their right to information and promote the use of the FOI Program as a tool for academic research. Each campus caravan event was attended by at least 500 students and faculty members from state schools, universities, and colleges.

The FOI-PMO launched the FOI Student Ambassadors Camp (Luzon Leg) on March 3-5, 2020. Attended by 90 student leaders from 44 participating State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) in Luzon, the FOI Student Ambassadors’ Camp aims to develop a committed partnership with the SUCs and build a strong stakeholder relationship with the students. Moreover, the activity aims to capacitate FOI Student Ambassadors (together with their Deputy Ambassadors) on the fundamentals of the FOI Program, and train them on effective dissemination and implementation of the program in their respective campuses through leadership and communications training. The PCOO Secretary and FOI Champion Martin Andinlar, in his keynote speech during the said event, stressed the important role of the youth sector in sustaining the FOI initiatives. Fostering a collaborative spirit among them is vital in creating social change.
FOI Compliance Consultation and Workshop for SUCs and LWDs

In November 2019, the FOI-PMO conducted four (4) batches of FOI Compliance Consultation and Workshop in Luzon and Mindanao. The consultation-workshop capacitated the FOI Officers in handling FOI requests in standard paper-based and electronic portal. It also provided the PBB Focal Persons guidance on their compliance to the set of requirements of PBB FY 2019.

- 11 and 12 November 2020: Cagayan De Oro
- 18 and 19 November 2020: Baguio City

FOI Online Consultation System (FOCS) for FOI Officers and PBB Focal Persons

Despite of circumstances brought by Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the FOI-PMO sought to recognize and adapt to the new normal arrangement, as many activities and engagements including the conduct of face-to-face training-orientations for stakeholders have been cancelled to mitigate the spread of the said disease.

To fulfill its mandate, the FOI-PMO facilitated an FOI Online Consultation System (FOCS) for FOI Officers and PBB Focal Persons using video conference facility to continuously train and capacitate them on the provisions set forth by the EO No. 2, s. 2016 and the requirements of PBB FY 2020.

- DOH - 8 June 2020
- MWS - RO - 23 June 2020
- PSA RA - 28 July 2020
- FDCP - 18 Aug 2020
- PNP - 28 Sept 2020
- NEA - 30 Sept 2020

FOI Technical Training Program for NGAs, GOCCs, SUCs, LWDs, and LGUs

The training programs covered a broad discussion on the procedures, policies, and requirements for FOI Program implementation. The training was aimed to capacitate FOI Officers of Implementing Agencies on the process, system, and technical operation of the eFOI Portal. The FOI-PMO have conducted training programs for the following agencies:

1. West Visayas State University (WVSU)
2. DOST - Central Office
3. DOST-TAPI
4. National Book Development Board (NBDB)
5. Sulu State University (SSU) And
6. Philippine Sports Commission (PSC)
7. National Irrigation Administration-Pangasinan
8. Bureau of Internal Revenue
9. Philippine Children’s Medical Center (PMMC)
10. Association of Information Officers in Metro Manila Information & Communication (AIMM)
11. Bureau of Immigration
12. Philippine National Police
13. Aurora State College of Technology
14. Philippine Competition Commission
15. Department of Science and Technology -STII
16. Tagum City Water District, Davao del Norte
17. Philippine National Volunteer-Service Coordinating Agency
18. Adamson University Political Science Students
19. Office for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ODC-OADR)

2020 FRO

The FOI-PMO recognizes the valuable role of FOI Receiving Officers (FROs) as the front-liners in ensuring the success of FOI Program implementation. This 2020, the FOI-PMO conducted 2020 FROs’ Hangout to converse among FROs to discuss and provide feedback on FOI implementation.

A total of 165 NGAs and GOCCs attended the 2020 FROs’ Hangout.

To ensure the most effective and efficient dissemination of the program to the broader community, the PCOO recognizes the significant role of key partner agencies and organizations in capacitating individuals and development stakeholder organizations in performing their roles and mandates, especially within the public sector.

The two-day training is divided into skills development sessions on how to become an effective FOI Ambassador. Methodology consists of lectures, structured learning experience, interactive sessions, and small group workshops to ensure active involvement of the participants.
2020 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Webinar for Librarians

As part of its ongoing initiatives, the FOI-PMO is expanding its reach to academic institutions and information specialists. The Office recognizes the significant role of our librarians in strengthening the effective implementation and utilization of the FOI Program, as they portray an essential function in providing public access to information.

The FOI Program Workshop for Librarians aims to encourage learners and teachers to ask the government conveniently in their school libraries about the Executive Branch of the Philippine Government. The Program also aims to introduce a technologically advanced way of asking through the electronic FOI Program or by accessing https://www.foi.gov.ph/.

With the FOI Program Workshop, the registered librarians will be trained to independently guide all students and teachers if there will be questions asked regarding the FOI Program in the libraries.

The presenter did very well explaining the FOI and the limitations/exceptions from the FOI because as of now it is only an Executive Order and not an approved law.

More webinar like this is great, it gives a lot of information to everyone.

I hope that students will be introduced to this as well.

The PCOO, as the lead communications arm of the government, spearheaded the 2020 Transparency Caravan as part of its Information, Education, and Communications (IEC) Campaign. The 2020 Transparency Caravan aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Increase media and information literacy to promote responsible handling and sharing of information and end the proliferation of fake news
- Raise civic awareness on transparency and accountability in governance through the FOI Program and other transparency initiatives of the government such as the DILG’s DevLoL, and Department of Budget and Management’s Project DiMe
- Partner with educational institutions to include the FOI Program in their curricula and promote FOI as an academic tool for research.

The PCOO launched the Duterte Legacy campaign in PICC last 17 January 2020. It showcases the real stories of the various beneficiaries of the administration’s landmark policies and programs from different sectors, including local communities, grassroots leaders, families and laborers, among others. Asec. Kristian Ablan discussed the FOI Program, alongside a documentary that narrates a testimonial from the beneficiary of the Program.

A total of nine (9) Transparency Caravans were conducted in 2019-2020.

- Cagayan de Oro: 11 October 2019
- Iligan: 04 October 2019
- Roxas City, Capiz: 14 October 2019
- Surigao City: 18 October 2019
- Davao City: 20 October 2019
- Legazpi, Albay: 22 October 2019
- Masbate City: 24 October 2019
- Digos City, Davao del Sur: 27 October 2019
- Zamboanga City: 29 October 2019
- Cotabato City: 01 November 2019

Scan to watch our Success Story Entry

- Participants
2020 FOI Workshop for Librarians
2019 FOI Summit & Awards
Making Waves as the Cornerstone of Democracy

The 2019 FOI Summit was conducted to commemorate its three (3) fruitful years of championing transparency and accountability, promoting good governance, and empowering Filipino citizens through access to information, on 11 December 2020.

Further, the 2019 FOI Awards was held to recognize and award Government Agencies and Organizations who have made significant contributions to the development and progress of the FOI Program in the Executive branch on 12 December 2020.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) bagged the champion award for government agencies, with the Presidential Management Staff (PMS) as the first runner-up, and the Design Center of the Philippines as second runner-up.

Government offices and non-government organizations together with their personnel were also given plaques of appreciation to recognize their contributions in promoting FOI within their scope and line of work.

For the top department nominees in 2019, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) was awarded as the department champion, followed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) as the first runner-up and the Department of Energy (DOE) as the second runner-up.

The Eulogio Amang Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology (EARIST) was recognized as the FOI champion for SUCs, with Kent State University and Cebu Normal University coming in as first and second runner-up, respectively.

IDUAI Multi-Arts Festival 2020
This 2020 marks the fifth year of the declaration of the International Day for Universal Access to Information.

For this year’s celebration, the FOI-PMO conducted its 2nd Annual FOI Multi-arts Festival adopting this year’s IDUAI theme, “Access to Information: Saving Lives, Building Trust, Bringing Hope”

Contests include essay-writing, poster-making, FOI Comics, Photography, and Jingle-making, all of which highlights the importance of Freedom of Information / Access to Information. FOI-PMO seeks to unleash the creativity of Filipinos in depicting and advocating the importance of access to information in nation-building through various forms and means of art such as literary work, poetry, photo, and film incorporating our unique Filipino identity and culture.

Comics Contest Champion: Sygdel Vasay

Poster Making Champion: John Eliakim Azor Y. Custodio

Photography Contest Champion: Kleimine Eco

Essay Writing Champion: Raheemah Hafsah Pangaranagan

“Suwars” accounts the authors experiences as an IDP brought by the Marawi siege few years back. She believes that “Freedom of Information thrives to be the best step in building that trust, to reliving the democracy.”

Scan to view the Jingle Making Contest Entries
Chapter 4
Right to Information in time of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic may have upended normal government operations, but our commitment and dedication in our mandate as lead implementers of the FOI Program remain strong and intact especially during these challenging times.

Over the course of the Community Quarantine period, the eFOI portal received a total of 13,405 information requests, of which in spite of FOI request suspension:

- 41% of requests emerged successfully,
- 31% were accepted, and
- 28% of requests were denied either due to data privacy concerns or the information requested is not considered as an FOI request.

Top 5 most requested information about COVID-19

1. List of Social Amelioration Program (SAP) Beneficiaries
2. Cash Aid Programs
3. Status of Calamity Loan Applications
4. Financial Assistance
5. Breakdown of COVID-19 cases
Webinar Series - Transparency Initiatives

As we fully acknowledge the importance and relevance of transparency now more than ever, the FOI-PMO carried out a webinar series entitled “In Focus: Capturing Transparency in Budgeting and Public Procurement in the Time of COVID-19” from which representatives from the Government Procurement Policy Board - Technical Support Office (GPPB-TSO), the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), civil society organizations as well as LGUs, were invited to discuss the parallel efforts of the government (national and local) and the civil society in ensuring transparency and accountability in the response and recovery efforts against COVID-19.

SESSIONS:

27 May 2020 Procurement in the Time of COVID-19
11 June 2020 COVID-19 and Its Impact on the Procurement Process
16 June 2020 Best Budgeting and Procurement Practices at the Local Level

COVID19 Social Media Management—Reposting of all COVID-19 related activities

As part of PCOO’s information dissemination strategy during the pandemic, the FOI Philippines reposted COVID-19 related news, updates, and announcements from the different agencies and organizations such as DOH, DLIG, IATF, PCOO, and Laging Handa PH, and responded to all COVID-19 queries and messages, and referred them to relevant agencies.

IATF Resolutions

FOI Advisories

In view of the imposition of community quarantine, the FOI-PMO issued several FOI Advisories. 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 8 April 2020, extending the suspension of the period to resolve FOI requests until 30 April 2020. 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 whose principal location is declared under the General Community Quarantine (GCQ).

Finally, Advisory No. 4 was issued on 1 June 2020, lifting the suspension to resolve FOI requests for offices in areas placed under GCQ or Modified GCQ. The same advisory extends the suspension of period to resolve FOI requests for offices located in ECQ or Modified ECQ districts.

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STII: StarBooks

On 8 November 2019, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the FOI-PMO and the Department of Science and Technology - Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) was signed to establish an effective and efficient partnership, maintain objectives and all commitments related to the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated Kiosk Station (STARBOOKS) Project.

The MOA was signed by FOI Program Director and Assistant Secretary Krystian R. Abilan and DOST-STII Director Richard P. Burgos, witnessed by FOI-PMO Compliance Monitoring Chief, Eden Darlene A. Mendoza and Chief Science Research Specialist, Mr. Alan C. Taule.

YAFOI: Philippine FOI Virtual Assembly 2020

The Youth Alliance for Freedom of Information (YAFOI), the biggest and only independent alliance of youth-organizations in the Philippines advocating for FOI, hosted the Philippine FOI Virtual Assembly 2020, in partnership with the International Youth United. The event had gathered representatives from the youth, civil society, and the government and facilitated sessions on FOI re-orientation and strategy-building to continue the effective response and delivery of the citizens’ right to access information amidst the pandemic.

Representatives from the FOI-PMO attended the event as resource speakers to the following sessions: 26 May 2020 (Luzon Leg); 28 May 2020 (Visayas Leg); and 30 May 2020 (Mindanao Leg).

ADMU: BIGKIS Program

The Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) - Office for Social Concern and Involvement has partnered with the FOI-PMO through its BIGKIS Program or National Service Training Program (NSTP) to deepen the students’ understanding of the processes of economic and social development, as well as their knowledge of concepts and skills in addressing poverty, exclusion, inequality, and vulnerability in the Philippine context.

Through this engagement, students are provided with opportunities to observe and participate in the current and existing activities and projects of the FOI-PMO particularly through the development of IEC campaign materials to popularize the FOI Program, and involvement in the FOI-AID Tool to help strengthen the FOI implementation of government agencies.

DBM: Open Government Partnership

The Philippines is one of the founding countries of the Open Government Partnership in 2011—a multilateral initiative which aims to secure concrete commitments from national and local governments to promote open government, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance.

Now on its 5th run, the Philippines is set to publish its OGP National Action Plan (NAP) for 2019-2022. The PCDOO, as one of the commitment holders for the Philippine Open Government partnership has committed the “Passage of the FOI Law and the Localization of the FOI Program.”
DAP: "FOI 101: Online Course"

The FOI-PMO partners with the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) in regard to the development of a short introductory course on FOI as part of Project SPARTA. The Project SPARTA is an initiative by DAP, Department of Science and Technology, Analytics Association of the Philippines, and Coursebank, which aims to train 30,000 students through various learning pathways in the field of data science and analytics. Through this project, the FOI-PMO envisions to capacitate Filipino citizens in exercising their right to access information through the FOI Program as part of the smart and data governance campaign of Project SPARTA.

NPC: Data Privacy and FOI Congress

On 22 September 2020, the National Privacy Commission (NPC) conducted the very first Data Privacy and FOI Congress to clarify relevant and pressing issues surrounding the implementation of the FOI Program and the Data Privacy Act of 2012 as part of the Government’s efforts in promoting data and privacy protection as well as access to information more so amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

LGA: Online Executive Coaching Session

The Local Government Academy (LGA), as the training arm of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), has been implementing the Newly Elected Official (NEO) Executive Coaching Session, which aims to strengthen the skill set of the newly elected officials, especially in formulating local plans and making decisions, in order to ensure a more competitive, effective, innovated, and responsive local government.

CHED: STS Program

On 14 October 2019, the PCOO met with the CHED - Office of Planning, Research and Knowledge Management (OPKRM) and the University of the Philippines System to discuss the inclusion of the FOI Program in the new General Education Curriculum for Higher Education Institutions, particularly under the Science, Technology and Society (STS) Program.

In line with our efforts, the FOI-PMO continues to build awareness and strengthen the capacities of the public to further empower them on their right to access government information. With these, the FOI-PMO will conduct a training-workshop entitled “FOI for Higher Education: The role of access to information in today’s data-driven society” for personnel involved in the STS Program of their respective institution on 5 December 2019 in the Great Eastern Hotel, Quezon City.
Partnerships in the Pipeline

CLD: Assessment

On 24 February 2020, the FOI-PMO conducted an Right to Information (RTI) Assessment Workshop at Astoria Greenbelt, Makati City, with the Executive Director Toby Mendel of the Center for Law and Democracy (CLD), situated in Halifax, Canada. The FOI team was also joined by members of the Right to Know Right Now! (R2KN) Coalition to represent the non-government sector.

This is in line with the office’s efforts to properly implement the RTI Assessment/Rating – an initiative of CLD – among the different agencies, departments, and offices in the Executive Branch.

NAP: ERM Policy

In partnership with FOI-PMO, the National Archives of the Philippines (NAP) drafted the Electronic Records Management (ERM) Policy to set standards and guide the government sector in the shift from traditional paper records management to an electronic regime. Through a series of virtual meetings, the PCOO and the NAP discussed each provision of the said ERM Policy.

DAP: FOI Certification Program

The FOI-PMO partners with the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) in the formulation of a Certification Course on FOI. The course shall feature a set of practical interventions aligned with partner agencies and organizations such as the National Archives of the Philippines (NAP), the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA), and the National Privacy Commission (NPC), which will be compressed by DAP into sets of module to further inform FOI practitioners on access to information, data privacy, and data management among others.

As contained in the pre-launch deliverables of the FOI Certification Course, the FOI-PMO has been closely coordinating with DAP in the drafting and finalization of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Barangay FOI

A barangay-level FOI campaign that includes relevant FOI discussions/sessions. The program includes talks about FOI and other transparency initiatives of the government and an information drive from invited agencies. It aims to build awareness of FOI at the grassroots level and seeks to champion FOI in LGUs (barangay), and the masses.

FOI Social Media Content Production

FOI Social Media Content Production includes capturing of FOI success stories, agency testimonials, and interviews of ordinary people. This project aims to document and share to a wider audience the successes and gains of FOI as a landmark government program under the Duterte Administration, and to call citizens to utilize FOI to request public information from the government.

CPD Requirement for Secondary Professional Teachers

The Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for Teachers is in partnership with the Professional Regulatory Commission to train teachers on the FOI Program. The FOI-PMO would want teachers to be equipped in using the FOI Platforms in their academic research and for them to teach students on how to fully utilize the FOI Platforms in academic research to acquire relevant, truthful, verified, and official information from the government.
Open Government Partnership Week

The Open Government Partnership Week (Open Gov Week) is an international event celebrated around the world by open government leaders, thinkers, and advocates who come together to share ideas, discuss innovative solutions and commit to new levels of citizen participation in government. To take part in this celebration, the FOI-PMO would like to co-organize the same event with partner agencies and/or organizations in support of the whole open government agenda.

This aims to bring together partners of the FOI Program and the Philippines- Open Government Partnership (PH-OGP) to discuss relevant issues concerning transparency, accountability, and civic participation in governance.

The ICIC is a global network of member Information Commissioners who meet regularly in order to foster the protection and the promotion of access to public information as a fundamental pillar to social, economic, and democratic governance. The FOI-PMO, as a newly accredited member of the ICIC last February 2020, would like to take the opportunity to host the Conference to provide an opportunity to address current issues on access to information, including transparency and accountability, competing interests, the rights of vulnerable societies and the divisive role of technology through an international platform.

It also aims to strengthen public access to information through international cooperation among Information Commissioners around the world.

Chapter 6

TESTIMONIALS AND MESSAGE OF SUPPORT
A pleasant day to everyone.

I am honored to be part of the 2020 Freedom of Information Summit and Awards, and to be reunited with fellow advocates and champions for the Freedom of Information (FOI).

Ever since President Rodrigo Duterte issued Executive Order (EO) No. 02 or the Executive Order for the People’s Constitutional Right to Information and the State Policies of Full Public Disclosure and Transparency in Public Service in 2016, the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) and the Freedom of Information Project Management Office have been at the forefront of upholding our right of access to information.

They, along with FOI advocates all around the country, have stood at the vanguard of promoting transparency and accountability in public service. Hence, I am expressing my deepest gratitude and sincerest congratulations to PCOO, FOI-PMO, and the brave FOI advocates who weathered the many challenges we have encountered.

Transparency and accountability are central ideas in the concept of good governance. The disclosure of information and transparent decision-making processes empower citizens and other stakeholders to examine and be familiar with actions that concern the public, and hold governments responsible. As public servants, it is our duty and responsibility to serve the country and the Filipino people to the best of our abilities. Policies that promote Freedom of Information will help us deepen that commitment.

In the time of COVID-19, information is power. Access to services from appropriate government agencies can help alleviate the situation of Filipinos and that begins with the availability of correct and reliable information. Conversely, misinformation can dangerously lead to helplessness, anxiety, and might even cost the life of our people.

And so, while the Executive Order No. 2 have led to great strides in the almost three decades worth of lobbying from FOI advocates, we must expand the scope of FOI in government through a national legislation that can cover other important government institutions like local governments, the legislature, independent constitutional bodies, and the judiciary.
Warmest greetings to the organizers, advocates and participants of the 2020 Freedom of Information Summit and Awards!

One of the very first acts by President Rodrigo Duterte upon his assumption to office was the signing of Executive Order No. 02 which operationalizes in the Executive Branch the People’s Constitutional Right to Information and the State Policies of Full Public Disclosure and Transparency in the Public Service. With this, openness to the public and transparency became hallmarks of the Duterte administration.

Students who are conducting research for academic purposes can easily request information from various government offices. Non-government organizations which are developing programs for their target beneficiaries can readily access data and research studies from the executive department. Media practitioners who are writing investigative reports can substantiate their prose with facts and figures uploaded in official websites.

I would like to commend the men and women of the Freedom of Information – Project Management Office (FOI-PMO) for spearheading the cause and laying the groundwork towards the effective implementation of the FOI Program. In a very short time, the team was able to accomplish much - from building the mechanisms and capacities of our local government units to changing the mindsets of stakeholders towards upholding the people’s right to information.

The Senate had previously approved on Third and Final Reading its version of the FOI Bill, which institutionalizes full public disclosure of all transactions involving public interest. The bill, of which this representation is one of the co-authors, covered all government agencies in the executive, legislative and judicial branches, including constitutional bodies, local governments, government-owned and controlled corporations, and state universities and colleges. It also declared as a policy the promotion of meaningful and increased participation of the people in government decision-making and public accountability.

As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Information and Mass Media, I am hopeful, that with your expertise and support, we can again craft and steer into passage an FOI Bill that is truly responsive and attuned to the needs of our time.

Congratulations! Mabuhay!

As the Chairman of the Committee in the Public Information, I would like to express my full support to the passage of an FOI Bill in the Congress and I enjoy my fellow Congressmen to support FOI bills currently pending in the House of Representatives and together help craft one that is truly responsive to our people’s needs.

Again, to the PCDIO and the FOI-PMO family, congratulations. Mabuhay po kayo!

Mababalot

Hn. Joseph “Jojo” L. Lara
Congressman
It has been the policy of the Department of Labor and Employment to uphold the highest level of transparency and freedom of information in good and bad times. It’s our commitment to provide the general public with honest and truthful information.

The COVID-19 pandemic made us more creative in proactively disclosing data and information on the Social Amelioration Programs implemented by the DOLE for Affected Workers.

SILVESTRE H. BELLO III
Secretary
Department of Labor and Employment

In the quest for excellence in public service, accountability and responsibility in information dissemination and utilization should be the major indicators.

For Cebu Normal University, the Freedom of Information Program of the government has polished the University’s measures of materializing this indicator of excellence.

DR. FILomena T. Dayagbil
Dean
Cebu Normal University

The Freedom of Information (FOI) Program plays a vital role in running the government effectively through full public disclosure.

Over two years since it was signed, it has become a compelling mechanism in promoting an open, transparent and accountable governance in all agencies under the Executive branch.

VIVENCIO B. DIZON
President and CEO
Zambales Convention and Development Authority

FOI connects the government and the public by establishing pathways to access information on a broader spectrum, and it is this sense of empowering by the people that translates to a more productive and involved citizenry.

LEONARDO Rey D. Vasquez
General Manager
Zambales City Water District (ZCWD)

I never thought that my research on my future project on how to elevate the life of the construction workers here in the Philippines will be easy because of the help of e-FOI.

At first, I didn’t know this is possible and existing until I tried it. Kudos to the people who are behind this, awesome commitment to our information system.

JUAN JOSE RUIZ DE ROSA
Manager, Data Quality Control

I took the advantage to request multiple data from different government agencies in FOI and I am very satisfied and at the same time impressed as some of my requests are marked denied, however, FOI officer reached me via e-mail providing an alternative data from the agency that might be helpful, and they also provided me emails of who to contact for further questions.

MARGARETTE DE DIANA
Director, Information Management Division

THE INFORMATION PROVIDERS

UNDERSTANDING THE PUBLIC
POLICY, PLANNING, AND SUPPORT DIVISION

The Policy, Planning, and Support Division (PPSD) primarily recommends plans and policies and implements guidelines related to the FOI in order to address policy gaps in the implementation of the Program.

Atty. Tristan E. De Guzman
Chief, Policy, Planning and Support Division and Chief of Staff of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Legislative Affairs and Freedom of Information (FOI) Program.

Atty. Mae Anne O. Sandoval
Senior Policy Officer
Lead and manage the policy formulation, review, and research, and coordinate the development and implementation of policy initiatives in the FOI Program.

Ma. Kristannah V. Amideval
Senior Planning and Support Officer
Lead the planning and execution of logistical and administrative support to FOI staff and support the support staff.

Kristian Veil N. Nieves
Planning Officer and Procurement Lead
Lead the financial, budgetary, and logistical aspects of the FOI Program.

Rheanne L. Pascue
Capacity Development Lead
Lead the training, development, and capacity-building efforts for FOI staff.

Jona S. Topacio
Asset Management Officer
Lead the management of FOI assets and maintain the integrity of FOI assets.

Carla Biance O. Serut
Procurement Officer
Oversee the procurement activities of the FOI Program.

Jaya V. Ilustrismo
Records Officer
Oversee the preservation and archiving of FOI records.

Chayenne O. Sy
Procurement Officer
Handle procurement activities of the FOI Program.

Karlos Lomar L. Tiamzon
Legislative Liaison Officer
Coordinate and liaise with the Legislative Branch of Government and key stakeholders for the passage of legislative initiatives related to FOI.

Francis Jasper F. Fulgar
Legislative Liaison Officer
Coordinate and liaise with the Legislative Branch of Government and key stakeholders for the passage of legislative initiatives related to FOI.

Anthony D. Cu
Executive Assistant
Provide administrative support to the Assistant Secretary in the FOI Program.

Jhoen Erlbol B. Sinejeres
Administrative如实
Provide administrative support to the FOI Division.

Jonathan B. Radores
Administrative如实
Provide administrative support to the FOI Division.

Jose Nel F. Maquirang
Administrative如实
Provide administrative support to the FOI Division.

Roberto B. Luanzon
Maintenance如实
Provide maintenance support for the FOI Program.

Margelyn T. Jimena
Asset Management如实
Provide administrative support and coordinate the management of FOI assets.

WARRIORS OF TRANSPARENCY

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COMPLIANCE MONITORING DIVISION

The Compliance Monitoring Division (CMD) is responsible for monitoring and facilitating the implementation of EO No. 2, s. 2016 and the FOI Program by all government offices under the Executive Branch.

Eden Darlene A. Mendoza
Compliance Monitoring Chief
Oversees the development and execution of the compliance-monitoring plans for agencies.

Ma. Danica A. Orcullo
Senior Compliance Monitoring Officer
Monitors and conducts monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and programs to assist agencies in FOI compliance.

Patricia Marri O. Maranan
Junior Compliance Monitoring Officer
Monitors and evaluates the compliance of government agencies with the FOI Program and conducts field inspections.

Daniel Angelou E. Echovarria
Compliance Monitoring Officer
Assists in the development and oversight of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) for MOUs and other schools, and liaise accordingly.

Dianne M. Gamboa
Compliance Monitoring Officer
Monitors and evaluates the compliance of WIIs in the implementation of the FOI Program and liaise accordingly.

COMMUNICATIONS AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

The Communications and Capacity Development Division (CCDD) strives to enlighten agencies and officers under the Executive Branch with competencies to properly implement EO No. 2, s. 2016 and the FOI Program. The activities and interventions that the CCDD can provide is founded on its CCDD Workplan, which covers a spectrum of FOI systems, procedures, and practices.

Krizia Casey P. Avajar
Division Chief and Finance Officer
Manages and provides policies and directions for the Information Technology and Legal Office, and oversees the financial management and budget planning of the FOI Program.

Martin Jane G. Cocota
Information Technology Lead
Leads the management, development, and enhancement of the FOI portal and provides technical support to all agencies embedded in the portal.

Armand Frederick V. Gatsayas
Communications Officer
Assists in managing the social media accounts of the FOI Program and research for FOI communication campaigns.

John Vicente G. Jimenez
Senior Communications and Social Media Specialist
Manages the social media accounts of the FOI Program in accordance with the communications plan.

Ma. Josee Alessia G. Ramirez
Communications and Engagement Specialist
Manages the social media accounts of the FOI Program to align with the communications plan.

Kate B. Refundo
Senior Creative Arts and Brand Management Specialist
Manages the social media accounts of the FOI Program and coordinates with other agencies.

Ryan G. Tordas
Brand Management Officer
Assists in the creation of infographics and other publications for information dissemination.

Valerie R. Valenzuela
Communications and Engagement Specialist
Manages and coordinates the social media accounts of the FOI Program.

April A. Auras
Junior Creative Arts Specialist
Manages the social media accounts of the FOI Program and coordinates with other agencies.
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP UNIT

The Strategic Partnership Unit (SPU) handles the linkages of the FOI-PMO with local and international organizations, and the development and implementation of the FOI Strategic Partnership Roadmap.

Pearl Iris L. Clemente
Engagement Lead

Develops and enhances strategic partnerships with various government agencies, civil society organizations, and international organizations that will assist the development of the FOI Program.

Marissa R. Ricofranco
Engagement Officer

Assists in the implementation of the Strategic Partnerships engagement strategy for various government agencies, civil society organizations, and international organizations that will assist the development of the FOI Program.

FOI RADIO TEAM

The FOI Radio Team handles the branding, content creation, communication strategy, and overall production management of the FOI sa Radyo program.

Jerald Bien Gahinanan
FOI Radio Graphic Artist

Conceptualizes and executes an efficient system for implementing creative brand communications management for the FOI Radio Program.

Jannen Alej M. Lopez
FOI Radio Writer/Researcher

Conducts in-depth research on related topics in order to develop original content for the FOI Radio Program and undertake the development of communication materials for the FOI Radio program.

Jennifer B. Tabosares
FOI Radio Writer/Researcher

Conducts in-depth research on related topics in order to develop original content for the FOI Radio Program and undertake the development of communication materials for the FOI Radio program.

Mikaela C. Guerra
FOI Radio Executive Producer

Oversees day-to-day production processes of the FOI Radio Program and enforces new concepts and ideas that align with brand advocacy of the program.

FOI CHAMPION

Jose Ruperto Martin M. Andanar
Secretary and FOI Champion
Presidential Communications Operations Office

FOI PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Kristian R. Ablan
Assistant Secretary and FOI Program Director
Presidential Communications Operations Office
**ACTIVITIES**

**ISO QMS**
As part of the QMS Core team for training and advocacy, the FOI-PMO attended a series of training sessions of ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (QMS) that were conducted through Google Meet Video Teleconference (VTC) with the following topics:

1. **Workshop on Process Streamlining**
3. **ISO 9001:2015 QMS Implementation Plan**
4. **Seminar on 5s Quality Workplace**

The said orientation provides guidance and assistance to focal persons and personnel of the PCCD in establishing its QMS.

**FOI Collaterals**
As part of the communications campaign of the FOI-PMO, FOI collaterals such as FOI jackets, mugs, banners, library materials, notebooks, pens, t-shirts, and stickers were provided to key stakeholders to strengthen the presence of the FOI Program in their respective institutions as well as increase public awareness of the program.

**FOI Viber Stickers**
To celebrate the fourth year anniversary, the FOI-PMO launched its very own FOI-themed Viber sticker pack. Featuring FRIDA (Freedom of Information Digital Assistant) and Tall the Owl, our viber stickers aim to educate and give the public an idea on our FOI implementation. The “FOIPH Fact na Pack” is downloadable for free from Viber’s Sticker Market.

**Public Assistance**
The FOI-PMO responded to 3,887 emails from government agencies regarding the following matters:

- FY 2018 and 2019 PBB Compliance
- Accessing their accounts in the eFOI Portal
- Inquiries regarding the e-FOI suspension
- Request for information
- Request for orientation/meetings
- Other Admin Matters